20p

WORLD SOCCER

The *INTERNATIONAL* Magazine

OCTOBER 1973

COVENTRY CITY 1973·74

Back row left to right
Mick McGuire, Roy Barry, Bobby Parker, Tommy Casey (Coach).

Centre row left to right
John Craven, Chris Cattlin, Bill Glazier, Mick Coop, Neil Ramsbottom, Dennis Mortimore, Brian Alderson.

Front row left to right
Alan Green, Alan Dugdale, Colin Stein, Gordon Milne (Manager), Wilf Smith, Tommy Hutchinson, Willie Carr.

CLODOALDO Brazil

WORLD SOCCER
incorporating SOCCER STAR
The INTERNATIONAL Magazine

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OCTOBER WORLD SOCCER, 1973
VOL. 14 No. 1

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WORLD SOCCER (incorporating SOCCER STAR) is published monthly by Websters Publications Ltd., 79 Temple Chambers, London, E.C.4, England. Situated at this address are the magazine's Editorial, Advertising and Publishing offices. Printed by The Chesham Press Ltd., Chesham, Buckinghamshire. © Websters Publications Ltd. Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper.

England must wait

THE next few weeks will be anxious ones for England. The result of the Poland versus Wales match in the giant Slaski Stadium in Chorzow will have a direct bearing on the visit of the Poles to Wembley later this month.

Even now it is difficult to think of England not qualifying for the final stages of the 1974 World Cup . . . but it would be foolish to underestimate Poland. Our own Eric Batty saw them comprehensively beat Bulgaria and a victory against Wales would give them a wonderful chance of making the last 16.

Sir Alf Ramsey can at least take heart from the sort of form shown by some England players so far this season. Tony Currie, in particular, seems to have blossomed since he played against Russia in the summer. He is the nearest we have got to finding a successor to Bobby Charlton — a midfield player with vision, a long pass and a good shot — and that is something.

Peter Shilton seems to get better and better and is now an outstanding goalkeeper. Colin Todd is back in the international reckoning and playing well with Derby County. Paul Madeley has been superb for Leeds United in their run-away start to the new campaign.

The real problems, of course, remain up front. England will have to score goals at Wembley. Mike Channon, Martin Chivers and Allan Clarke would appear to be the three most likely to play at Wembley; and on their day they are certainly the best combination. Chivers seems to come alive when Channon is around, and that is a good thing for England.

But they have to have the bullets to fire. A bolder, more imaginative approach by those playing in the midfield would be welcome. Wembley could be the graveyard. But there is no reason why it should be if England play up to their potential. But when was the last time that happened?

With their two vital World Cup match
Poland face two crucial tests in Chor

TOP CLASS
BUT CAN T

SINCE the early 1960s Poland's national team has been on the verge of breaking through to the highest international class. With outstandingly gifted players like Ernst Pol (Gornik Zabrze) and Lujan Brychczy (Legia) they ran up some big scores against minnows like Norway yet failed to match the better organisation, truly professional physical preparation and will to win when they met the old-established soccer countries.

The final breakthrough for Poland came in the qualifying stages for the 1970 European Championship when they were grouped with the ultimate winners, West Germany and went down by the most slender of margins: 2-3 at home and 0-0 away. That goal-less draw in Hamburg is perhaps the Pole's morale booster for since then they have gone on to take a very well merited Olympic Games soccer title last year and a 2-0 win over England at Chorzow last June.

Polish midfield player, Cmikewic.

Assuming that Poland beat Wales, again in Chorzow, they will come to Wembley knowing that a draw will put them through. It's on the cards; they deserve to qualify—for they play far better football than England—but team manager Kazimierz Gorski knows only too well that skill and team-work, ability and intelligence, organisation and planning are qualities that will take a team only so far.

In these cut-throat days of highly financed, ruthless competition and sheer incompetent refereeing, other factors are of at least equal importance. Indeed, as Brazilian coach Mario Zagallo and I agreed in conversation recently, pure undiluted courage is an essential pre-requisite in the game today. Without that, then all the skills of Pele are worth nothing.

The Poles' other qualities are beyond dispute. It is on their courage and their will to win that they will be examined at Wembley.

On paper, it would appear that what Poland did in Hamburg they could repeat at Wembley. No doubt an early breakaway goal would really stir things up—and after all Lubanski and Co., are three years older; wiser and more experienced. Yet the circumstances behind the two matches were different.

Against the Germans in the Championship, the home side had the edge on points while Poland had to win to qualify. It was up to them to break the deadlock whereas against England, assuming that two points have been taken from Wales it will be up to the home side to force the pace.

If Poland fail they will have no excuses. They have had more than adequate preparation and following their recent tour of North and South America and the 2-0 win over Bulgaria at Varna, manager Gorski would not even think of England. "First things first," he said. "If we fail to beat Wales it will be a national disaster. This is the key game."

Significantly, this was only Bulgaria's third home defeat in the last 15 years, and while at the time the Polish league had not begun, the Bulgarian season was three weeks old. But the Bulgarians were not in the same class as the confident and highly skilled Poles, even though the visitors fielded a team far below full strength.

Compared with the side that beat England 2-0 five players were absent—Rzesny, Bulzacki, Kruska, Banas and Lubanski, though Bulzacki did come on as a substitute for the injured Gorgon. Domarski was there too—and he it was who stood in for Lubanski when he was taken off at Chorzow—but bearing in mind the changes, the Poles demonstrated a depth of talent that few outside Poland could have imagined.

Defensive reserves abound everywhere—even if top class goalkeepers are rare—but the Poles had real international class second strings for the key roles of attacking midfield general and the striking positions on the right wing and centre forward. In midfield was the veteran Henryk Kasperczak, recalled after several years in the wilderness and proving himself a fine player.

Up front were Grzegorz Lato on the right and Jan Domarski in the middle—all from current champions Stal Mielec and all three really first class.

Apart from his ability and intelligent running, Lato has real pace. Both he and Domarski chased everything, full of heart and causing no end of trouble. Prompted by Dejna, Kasperczak and Cmikewic in midfield, Lato, Domarski and Gadocha (who had a quiet game) almost ran riot. They could and perhaps should have had five or six goals.

Against an eight-man Bulgarian defence, the Poles tore gaps that Panzer Divisions could have streamed through. Shots and diving headers from Lato and Domarski went only inches wide and each should have had hat tricks. Lato, I believe, will replace Banas though Lubanski will be there at Wembley.

Good

Surprisingly, remembering that for years British critics of the continentals have said "yes, they can push the ball around short, looking good and doing conjuring tricks, but they don't open the game and they can't score goals," both the Polish goals came from well conceived build ups including a long final pass and real finish.

Late in the first half Cmikewic hit a long ball up the middle (after preparation) that Domarski reached to head on. There, flying like an Olympic sprinter was Lato, out-

es against Wales and England in mind, zow and Wembley. ERIC BATTY reports

AT LAST — HEY DO IT?

The Polish team that faced Bulgaria in Varna. Left to right: Dejna, Tomaszewski, Gorgon, Cmikewic, Szymanowski, Weczorek, Domarski, Musial, Lato, Kasperczak, Gadocha.

stripping everyone to score, right footed with a hard low cross shot. The second came from Kasperczak whose long pass must have travelled a good fifty yards and caught the Bulgarians really flat and exposed. Lato again, with fine anticipation and similar speed was away like a bomb. With only the 'keeper to beat, Lato steadied himself and slipped the ball past Goranov.

If Alf was concerned after Chorzow and if he sweats a bit should Poland get the points from Wales, it was probably best (for his health at least) that he wasn't at Varna. Had he been, he would have needed two months of barbiturates to even close his eyes. For what impressed most of all was the return to his best form of Kazimierz Dejna who, like all his Legia colleagues, was below par last season, and well below his best against England.

In Bulgaria, Dejna showed it all. Socks down, strolling about like a master, Lord of all he surveyed. He stroked the ball about, held it, screened it, laid it off and took it back to perfection. Feinting and dribbling, "bending his passes", curling and flighting his longer balls . . . he was superb.

On top of all that Dejna was always quick to see a gap up front and sprint through, looking for a ball and though he never got one when it really mattered, he was always in the action.

In the second half Dejna started a move in midfield that was carried on by Kasperczak and Domarski. Having parted with the ball Dejna never stopped running and when Domarski (put through) had his shot blocked by 'keeper Goranov it was Dejna who was on hand to pick up the re-bound. Driving it hard and low across goal (and turning) it might have gone in, but Lato got a toe-end to it and poked the ball wide.

Near the end a piece of sheer magic was produced by Dejna. Surrounded by Bulgarians on the edge of the box, he beat a man, feinted, then passed to Kasperczak and get back a one-two that only the Brazilians at their very best (Pele and Tostao) seem able to bring off in modern international football close to goal. Dejna was through for a goal that would have crowned a magnificent personal triumph but tragically with only the 'keeper to beat his shot went inches wide.

Another illustration of Dejna's awareness was provided when Gadocha made a good run down the left and crossed high. Lato, playing "from" the right wing in the modern manner rather than "on" it, had gone inside looking for just such a ball and leaping high he nodded down to Dejna. First time, the midfield man smacked a beautifully judged pass across the face of the penalty area to the wide open space on the right wing. Open that is save for right back Szymanowski who had seen the hole and was already sprinting into it.

Cleared

This particular move came to nothing for the high cross was cleared but it served to underline Dejna's perception . . . what the coaching books call *peripheral vision*. I prefer to regard it as common sense—look about and see what's going on.

Overall, even with only half the side that met England the Poles looked really good. But, on this showing the Bulgarians wouldn't have frightened Cyprus (in Nicosia). Above all the boot didn't go in and if Greek referee Gulyas was no better than the host of men in black who wear FIFA badges, he didn't have too many decisions to make. After all it was a friendly between two friendly countries.

Believe me, the Poles are good. But the test will come at Wembley. There if their courage (both physical and moral) matches their undoubted ability then given a firm referee, Hunter, Storey and Co are in for a run around. No doubt, England will get their stiffest test since West Germany beat them 18 months ago, though with a Belgian referee . . . there could be trouble of all kinds.

Should Poland do it, they could conceivably go on to add the World Cup to their Olympic title for in terms of *real* football they are currently better than Brazil or West Germany. But I know (and Gorski knows it too) that football can be countered—given the blind eye from referees.

With regard to injuries, Gorgon was taken off in Varna as a precautionary measure only. Banas will be fit (if required) and so should Lubanski. During July and August while his colleagues were on tour, Wlodzimierz spent a month resting and recuperating in Zakopane, the mountain resort on the Polish side of the Tatras. He's fit and training now, and getting match fit for Gornik.

Heaven help any Polish opponent who kicks him in a league game between now and Wembley.

Benfica count the cost

BENFICA began the eve of the season period counting their injuries. Four strikers were on the list—Eusebio, Artur Jorge, Jordao and Vito Baptista.

The worst injured was Eusebio who hurt his leg in a friendly with America (Rio) and was hoping to get fit for his testimonial match later in the month.

However manager Jimmy Hagan spent some time in Mozambique looking for likely replacements for his squad and returned with possibles Joaquim Joao, Simoes (no relation to Antonio Simoes), Alfredo and Norberto.

The last named is looked upon as the best capture and is already being talked about as a new Eusebio, chiefly because he also wears a No. 10 shirt.

Benfica have transferred their international midfield player Matine back to Setubal. The latter club spent the close season on a tour of Canada.

Schemer

Belenenses, who were runners-up to Benfica, have strengthened their team with two Brazilians. Eliseu, a midfield schemer, looks a particularly good prospect having come from Sporting Club Bahia in his native country and Toninho a centre forward looks goal hungry enough. He was previously with the Mexican club America.

Belenenses transferred winger Laurindo to Porto, who are under the guidance of 73 years old Bela Guttmann. From Porto has gone the Argentinian striker Heredia to Barcelona.

Sporting Lisbon have been having trouble over contracts with goalkeeper Damas and centre back Laranjeira. Their former full-back the international Pedro Gomes is now trainer of newly promoted Oriental.

Antonio Simoes of Benfica.

DOUBLE WINNERS KEEP BUSY

LEAGUE and Cup double winners Olympiakos were busy in the close season signing a clutch of players, but none of them are likely to make up for the loss of Romain Arghirudis, who has gone back to a French club, Lens.

From Ajaccio has arrived full back Roland Kourbis and midfield player Makis Galakos from Fortuna Dusseldorf. Other captures include Poupakis (goalkeeper) and Stavropoulos (winger) from Aigaleo with the possible addition of Kritikopoulos the Ethnikos midfield schemer.

Olympiakos have a new President in Nilos Goulandris the wealthy ship owner but retain their old trainer, Lakis Petropoulos.

Panathinaikos have given Ferenc Puskas a contract for another year. Other managerial moves include Branko Stankovic to Aris Salonika from AEK Athens and Joe Mallett from Panionios to Apollon.

Panionios have replaced Mallett with Dan Georgiadis the former Patras and Greek national team manager. Les Shannon remains with PAOK Salonika and after trying to sign Stefan Kovacs and his Rumanian colleague Niculescu, AEK have finally taken on Stan Anderson, the former Middlesbrough boss.

Panathinaikos expect great things from their Paraguayan international striker Severiano Iralla (23), who hit 27 goals for his native country's eleven. AEK have been busy, too, signing the Trikala goalkeeper Sidiropoulos, stopper centre half Stefanidis (24) and centre forward Sasopoulos (22) both from Serres.

They also hope for good things from Russian born forward Ivan Kipritidis from Third Division club Astir Athens.

Last season there were 30 foreigners in the Greek First Division and the number is likely to be increased this season. Over half of them are South Americans.

The national team were beaten 3-1 by France, now managed by Stefan Kovacs, the ex-Ajax boss sought by AEK.

Extra time winner

THE domestic season began with the Belgian Cup and when the First and Second Division clubs entered, the thirty-two surviving minnows hoped for a chance of a giant-killing act. None transpired though Third Division V.G. Ostende put the champions FC Bruges into an embarrassing position.

Bruges were two up in twenty-five minutes through Ruud Geels and a Raoul Lambert penalty but a couple in five minutes put Ostende level before half-time.

And Bruges had to wait until extra time for the winner from their ex-Bundesliga bad boy Rolf Russmann (21) from Schalke 04.

Russmann is one of several newcomers to Bruges. Others include Julien Cools the Beringen left back and Bertus Quaars (25) a Dutch midfield player from NAC Breda.

Trainer Leo Canjels has gone after his outburst concerning amateur administrators trying to run professional players and his fellow Dutchman and assistant Jaak De Wit is in charge.

Bruges also have a new President in Fernand Declerck (42) who succeeds his father.

The problem of too many foreigners is becoming acute in Belgium and Bruges began with four likely candidates for a senior place—one over the legal number in League games. But Henk Houwaart the Dutchman took out naturalisation papers in June, so it should have been O.K.

Unfortunately the papers did not come through in time for the first League game though he played along with his Dutch colleague Geels, the German Russmann and the Dane Ulrik Le Fevre.

The League programme produced 22 goals in the eight matches and only one scoreless draw, predictably between Bruges and RWD Molenbeek. Known previously of course as Racing White the latter had 17 draws last season and conceded only 19 goals the best defensive record in the country.

Racing have now combined with Daring Molenbeek—hence the new title—and also play in Molenbeek. Chief new signing here is the St. Trond midfield player and international Odillon Polleunis, Player of the Year in 1968.

Henri Depireux after transfer talks with Antwerp, Strasbourg and Espanol remained after all as did veteran Dutchman Gerard Bergholz.

Last season's runners-up Standard Liege had the benefit of playing in the Summer Cup on the Continent and Yugoslavian striker Josip Bukal scored seven goals in six matches in it.

He was also smartly off the mark in the League, too, direct from a free-kick in Standard's 2—0 win over CS Bruges.

And they were without injured players Leo Dolmans, Leon Semmeling, Jean Thissen and Wilfried Van Moer.

Anderlecht with new signing Andre De Nul from Lierse beat Waregem 3—1. They expect right back Georges Heylens who broke a leg in the Cup Final to be fit shortly.

Lierse, despite losing skipper Frans Vermeyen to Antwerp, beat Beringen 4—1. Antwerp also signed former Anderlecht goalkeeper Jean Trappeniers from Union St. Gilloise.

The idea of a professional league for 1974-75, now appears to be taking the form of an open championship. Only nine clubs have said they would agree to the principles of a full professional League and since only five are in Division One—FC Bruges, Antwerp, Standard, Anderlecht and FC Liege, a clause admitting "non-amateurs" is the only way of saving face by the organisers.

Four teams will come up from Division Two and two go down making it an 18 team League.

Attendances will be closely watched this season, too. Last season the First Division gates fell from 2,332,578 to 2,082,253 and the Second Division from 1,103,859 to 1,070,651.

CHAMPS SIGN STRIKER

JEUNESSE ESCH, the League and Cup winners, signed the Red Boys striker Gilbert Dussier, but under Luxembourg FA rules if terms are not agreed by both sides in the move, the player can only appear under Licence "B".

This means he cannot turn out in a championship game for a year, but he will be available for Jeunesse Esch in the European Cup matches against Liverpool.

KEITA FINDS NEW HOME

Hervé Revelli, in action for France against Eire, beats this challenge from a desperate defender.

ALMOST no Kovacs and no Keita. Thus French football started the new season. Salif Keita, the tall, slender Malian centre-forward who started so well with Saint Etienne, quarrelled with the club and did considerably less well with Olympique Marseille, has gone to Spain, Valencia and Alfredo Di Stefano. Stefan Kovacs, who was busily telling French fans the story of his life in an endless series of interviews, was suddenly and whimsically told by the Rumanian Football Federation that they wanted him back after all.

What precisely went on between Kovacs and the authorities of Bucharest may never truly be known. First we were to believe that he was leaving Ajax because they had summoned him home to take charge of the national team, then that they were letting him manage France, then that they wanted him back after all. Now he is in France and was in charge of the team that beat Greece 3—1.

Elder brother

Kovacs, who played in Belgium for Charleroi during the late 1930s—his famous elder brother having played in France for Valenciennes just previously—has paid some pretty compliments to Georges Boulogne. No one, he thought, could have run our coaching courses so ably. Poor Boulogne, as we know, had also to run the national team. Not so easy.

Speaking of Keita's disappointing time at Marseille, the endlessly resilient manager Mario Zatelli—forever resisting attempts to supplant or replace him—explained, "Salif is a great footballer, but I believe that he failed for three reasons. The first comes from the three-foreigners-per-club rule, and was not his fault. The second concerns his more or less warm relations with the crowd, the third his relations with the players."

Free scoring

These last don't seem to speak very willingly about Keita. Josip Skoblar, the free scoring Yugoslav who now resumes his position as the "king" of Olympique's forwards, pays the inevitable tribute to Keita's talents, then goes on to say, meaningly, that to build a good football team, it takes more than eleven great players.

"We were three foreigners challenging for two places in the side. One of us had to drop out every time, usually Roger Magnusson. It seems to me that even if this situation cost Magnusson dear, it didn't psychologically favour either of us, Salif and me. The directors had created it despite themselves. One mustn't accuse Salif Keita of preventing Roger Magnusson from playing. Keita is an individualist, a soloist, a formidable talent. He doesn't accept the help of those around him. He wants to go for goal all on his own, and he is capable of it."

He himself, he goes on, stands or falls by the other players. "I like to be supported, while Salif refuses to be. Finally, I don't think one should lay his departure on the Marseille crowd. They like me and I reciprocate. But the day of Marseille v Saint Etienne, when Salif wore our jersey for the first time, they proved that he too could be one of the family. Salif only had to accept the chance to come in."

Now he has gone, and so has Kurt Linder, the vigorous young German coach whom some felt had been harshly used. Managers come and go at Marseille—wasn't Leduc another? Now Joseph Bonnel the ex-international midfield player at 34 takes over.

This season there may well be another strong challenge in the League from Saint Etienne, who were dominating it until Marseille came along, suborned Carnus and Bosquier, and broke up the happy home, a couple of seasons ago. Others left, too; Camerini, the full-back, Hervé Revelli, the French international centre-forward, Keita himself, after a bitter row with the voluble Saint Etienne President, M. Roger Rocher. But now Hervé Revelli is back, back from Nice, to link up with his younger brother, Patrick. Both have been getting goals during the European summer tournament, which did a great deal for the team's morale with such achievements as victory on the ground of Schalke 04.

It looks as if the ginger haired Robert Herbin, for so long one of their outstanding players, may well come good as a manager. Herbin, who had his moment in the 1966 World Cup film, plunging bravely, when injured, to head the ball just over the English bar, is a dedicated coach. It was perhaps a little unfortunate that he should have chosen to praise the devotion in training of his Yugoslav international goalkeeper, Curkovic, just before he had a dreadful game against Standard Liége, but this *is* a most conscientious player and as the club were quick to insist, he had just as bad a time against Atvidaberg of Sweden in the same tournament last year; before going on to play splendidly during the season proper.

Honourable

Last season, in fact, was a very honourable one for Saint Etienne and their very young manager. Fourth place; and this time Herbin quite understandably has ambitions to do much better. The club won't, he hopes, blow up so close to its objective, as it did earlier this year. More consistency is what he is seeking, and as he points out, last season's side was very young, several of its players having their first League season.

He expects them to have matured with experience, and he certainly intends, he says, for the side to go on playing true football. Piazza, the Argentinian international centre-half, will again be showed as a mobile sweeper. The Argentinians wanted him for an international match on July 6, but Saint Etienne, who have no release-clause in their contract similar to that which Nantes have for Bargas, would not let him go. Bargas, however, has spent the summer months with Sivori's team in Argentina. He may be rather a tired gentleman later in the year, for he has virtually been playing non-stop for the last two.

A last word about Salif Keita. While waiting to be transferred to Valencia, he went home to Mali and scored both goals in a 2—2 draw with Guinea in the African Cup quarter-finals.

by ANDRE DUCLOS

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Cruyff saga ends...but new storm explodes!

by JOHN SPARROW

THE end of the saga almost coincided with the end of that other famous soap opera of TV fame—Peyton Place. As clean-cut, wholesome Dr. Rossi went back to prison in the TV series, rich, worldly Johan Cruyff trotted off to Barcelona.

The Cruyff File was good family entertainment. As reported previously, he first called off the biggest soccer deal ever as Ajax and Barcelona looked like coming to terms.

According to his business manager and father-in-law, Cor Coster, it was for the sake of Mrs. Coster. She could not bear the thought of Johan whisking her only daughter and grandchildren off to far-away Spain.

But good old Johan found the thought of Barcelona more tempting than the title of World's No. 1 son-in-law. Little more than a week later he was back to the negotiating table to sign on for a sojourn in the sun.

The Spanish club are reported to have paid in the region of 5¼ million guilders to net Cruyff (around £808,800). Of this Ajax pocketed three million in transfer fee.

The affair brought pandemonium within the Koninklijke Nederlandse Voetbalbond. Cruyff had signed after the closure of the first transfer period. So normally he would have to wait until December 1—the beginning of the second period. Quite understandably neither Cruyff nor Barcelona were in favour of the wait, and the player applied to get the rules bent a fraction.

Of course the KNVB saw the dilemma. If they allowed Cruyff to go a precedent would be set. Ajax would want a replacement—almost certainly Willy Brokamp of MVV Maastricht—and MVV would demand to buy two more players to replace him. As a spokesman put it: "That way it would become a vicious circle. Cruyff must wait until the second period."

The problem, however, was that the KNVB is a very complex animal. The highest body within the authority is a general committee. Below them in say-so comes the committee of the professional football section. A power struggle has been raging within the KNVB for some time and the Cruyff affair supplied some more ammunition.

KNVB chairman Meuleman was against the transfer while professional football chairman Jacques Hogewoning was prepared to bend the rules to let Cruyff go.

Break

The armies lined up and hey presto—turmoil unprecedented. The KNVB committee made it clear they would be unable to break the rules and the pro section committee resigned on the grounds that a decision had been taken without due consultation with them.

Eventually the professional section met in full and a vote brought the committee back into being. The only vote against came from Ajax while FC Amsterdam abstained. The comment from Hogewoning was: "We've come back because we hope to be able to discuss how to become an independent committee."

Meanwhile a loud voice is crying for a shake-up of the KNVB . . . and Johan Cruyff is living and training in Barcelona waiting for December 1, the day he can appear in competition for his new club.

His last game for Ajax was the home derby with FC Amsterdam which the champions won 6-1 before an enthusiastic 29,500 crowd. Appropriately Cruyff scored the final goal.

Another player no longer to be seen in the Meer is Sjaak Swart. The brilliant winger who scored 260 goals for Ajax has retired from the professional game.

His send off was the benefit against Tottenham—the night the news came that Cruyff wanted to play for Barcelona after all. Swart was to Amsterdam what Bobby Charlton was to Manchester and the scenes within the Olympic Stadium were quite fantastic.

He's not been called Mr. Ajax for nothing. With 464 Ajax premier division games to his credit and 386 other matches, he takes the Dutch record from ex-Feyenoord winger Coen Moulijn.

Three weeks later trainer George Knobel was trying to lure him back for a spell. Jan Mulder was still on the injured list along with knee troubled Keizer, and with Cruyff gone Knobel could have used him. Swart thought about it for a while but decided against it. After such a tremendous farewell, he said, how could he.

After three games Ajax were standing third in the league. Having beaten FC Amsterdam 6-1 and FC Groningen 0-4 they dropped a point 1-1 away to NEC Nijmegen. Feyenoord were top with a maximum six points, ahead of FC Utrecht on goal average.

Utrecht disappointed last season but this term they've made a very impressive start. On their home ground they beat FC Twente 3-2 and away beat NAC Breda 2-4 and NEC 0-1.

Johan Cruyff and friends celebrate after winning the European Cup against Juventus.

NORMAN CUTLER reports from Madrid...

GENTO WILL FOLLOW MUNOZ

THERE is still a strong belief that Francisco Gento is heir apparent to the management of Real Madrid. Several times I've assured you that Miguel Munoz is in no danger of losing his position . . . that comes straight from Santiago Bernabeu himself. He is manager and will remain so until he wants to step down.

During the summer nearly every famous manager's name has been linked with Real's as the future manager. They all turned out to be gossip or impossible rumours.

Why should Munoz be replaced? He is only 51 years of age and most of the alleged successors are in the 50 to 60 region. For example why should he be succeeded by Kovaks? What has the Rumanian done for Ajax that Munoz hasn't done for Real?

The next manager of Real Madrid will be Francisco Gento, officially heir apparent.

Santiago Bernabeu groomed Munoz to be manager twelve years ago—he turned out to be one of Spain's most successful home-bred managers. Firstly with Rayo Vallecano then with Real Madrid.

Don Santi is to do the same with Gento, whom he calls "our dear Paco". The famous outside left is soon to return to his home club Santander as assistant manager. After several years, and when the time comes, he will be ready to change to Real as manager. By that time Miguel Munoz may be ready to retire and the Madrid club's continuity assured without all the auctions and bartering of names.

Suarez leaves

Three times in two years I've reported from Italy that Luis Suarez was leaving Italy and ending his football career.

The first two occasions were when he passed his first team management courses and opened talks with Spanish clubs. This time he has actually left, although he has not yet joined the announced club Coruna.

Kubala is still madly struck on Suarez and would need no persuasion to bring him back into the World Cup International XI against Yugoslavia.

The details I have of the Netzer transfer would fill a library, shock millions and occupy pages of the Guinness Book of Records . . . one day I'll write a special authentic feature:

"How Gunther Netzer signed for Real Madrid by a witness to the documents and signing!"

Real Madrid have signed a dozen players so far . . . but only two foreigners.

They still have one more of their quota left and they could easily be preparing to cause another big name signing sensation . . . an unbelievable name this time.

I've seen new signings arrive in VIP style, met by Presidents, politicians, mayors, film stars. They've arrived by Jumbo Jet, Rolls Royces, sports cars, donkey and cart.

This month a new experience . . . when a small executive jet settled and out stepped Salif Keita, the coloured African star, who has been in France for some years.

He is Valencia's first foreign signing for 26,000,000 pts.

Private plane is how Keita travels around Europe, but he won't find himself a lot of landing grounds.

Di Stefano has another signing on the way. I hope they settle in better than last season's new players did. Valencia escaped relegation by a fraction, their President left and the whole team nearly fell to pieces.

Foreign signings

The foreign signings haven't settled down yet. There will be a lot of trouble before the newcomers take their new positions in club and international sides and I mean trouble!

The Football Federation of Spain are just unable to keep up with clearing all the documents the Open Door regulations need. There is great doubt if all the 770 transfers — national and international — will be honoured in time for the first competition game.

F.I.F.A.'s recognition is doubtful, also which country they are elegible for . . . their *new* country or *their* birthplace. Netzer's earmarked for Spain.

Gunter Netzer.

It's chaos, literally chaos! Only two foreigners are allowed. Some clubs have signed and paid for three. Others have signed twelve new players and will have double the number of players permitted to register. *I think some of the clubs should check to know who they have bought . . .* they find new faces every time they go to the ground.

It's silly and the whole game is calling itself "*loco*"!! "*We're loco!*". What else did they expect?

Managers will be stopping players at the ground and asking if they have signed . . . to produce identity cards all through the games . . . another joke for cartoonists.

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Clough right to stay with Derby County

IF ITV *had* succeeded in luring Brian Clough wholly away from Derby County, or if they do succeed in it in the future—they will have dealt a nasty blow to British football. Personally, I cannot imagine Clough being content for long, at so very early an age, to sit on the sidelines of the battle, pronouncing on other generals, when he should so plainly be in it himself. It would surely come to seem to him, as it would assuredly seem to me, a dereliction of duty, a sophisticated form of running away.

Analogy

There is no valid analogy between himself and Jimmy Hill. Hill is a very shrewd man to whom today's highly paid players owe a debt which most of them are probably unaware of; he was a marvellously effective President of the professional footballers' union.

At Coventry City, he was a lively manager with many "gimmicks" who brought the club into the First Division. I think he was then objective enough to realise he had accomplished pretty well all he ever would, and to get out. Good luck to him. Clough, a far rougher diamond than Hill, has a far higher ceiling as a manager, which he has not even begun to realise.

His successes have been remarkable, but they have been essentially local successes. He fell in Europe last season at the first really high hurdle, and made a fool of himself in his outburst after the defeat in Turin; even if he may well have had a case for what he alleged. Europe must logically be his future playground, whether as manager of a Derby County team which again qualifies for the European Cup, or as manager of England.

Curiously enough, he seems to me to be a rather crude performer on television, who does not remotely give the best of himself. This is partly because he simply will not jib, tack and trim as Hill or even the wily Don Revie will; but it is also because he sometimes allows himself to be betrayed into some strangely false positions.

Substantiate

He detests Revie, of course, and all that he feels, rightly or wrongly, Leeds United stands for. He also abominates the stewardship of Alf Ramsey, with the England team, but when he tried to substantiate his position on television at the end of last season, he made himself look ridiculous, and allowed Ramsey to escape with barely a graze. It may be remembered that he had criticised Ramsey for not having beside him a "football person"—a Peter Taylor?—during matches, but sitting instead beside the team doctor, Neil Phillips, whom, to Clough's delighted disgust, he asked the time.

There may, in symbolic terms, have been something to Clough's criticisms; some believe that Ramsey is reluctant to work with those who might challenge and threaten him with their prestige and personality. Yet asked by David Coleman in a later programme, and with abundant time to consider his position, to flesh out his criticisms, Clough hammered compulsively away at the theme of Phillips and the watch.

Pardoned

A neutral viewer might have been pardoned for believing that Clough was really hard pressed to find a stick with which to beat the dog. No doubt regular practice on television would make him a smoother customer, if never quite as smooth as Hill, but would he or any of us really be the gainer?

I would have thought that Derek Dougan, when he finally decides to end his wonderfully long career, would be the man to follow Hill on ITV. He is fluent, personably, charming, and diplomatic. Moreover, he has for some

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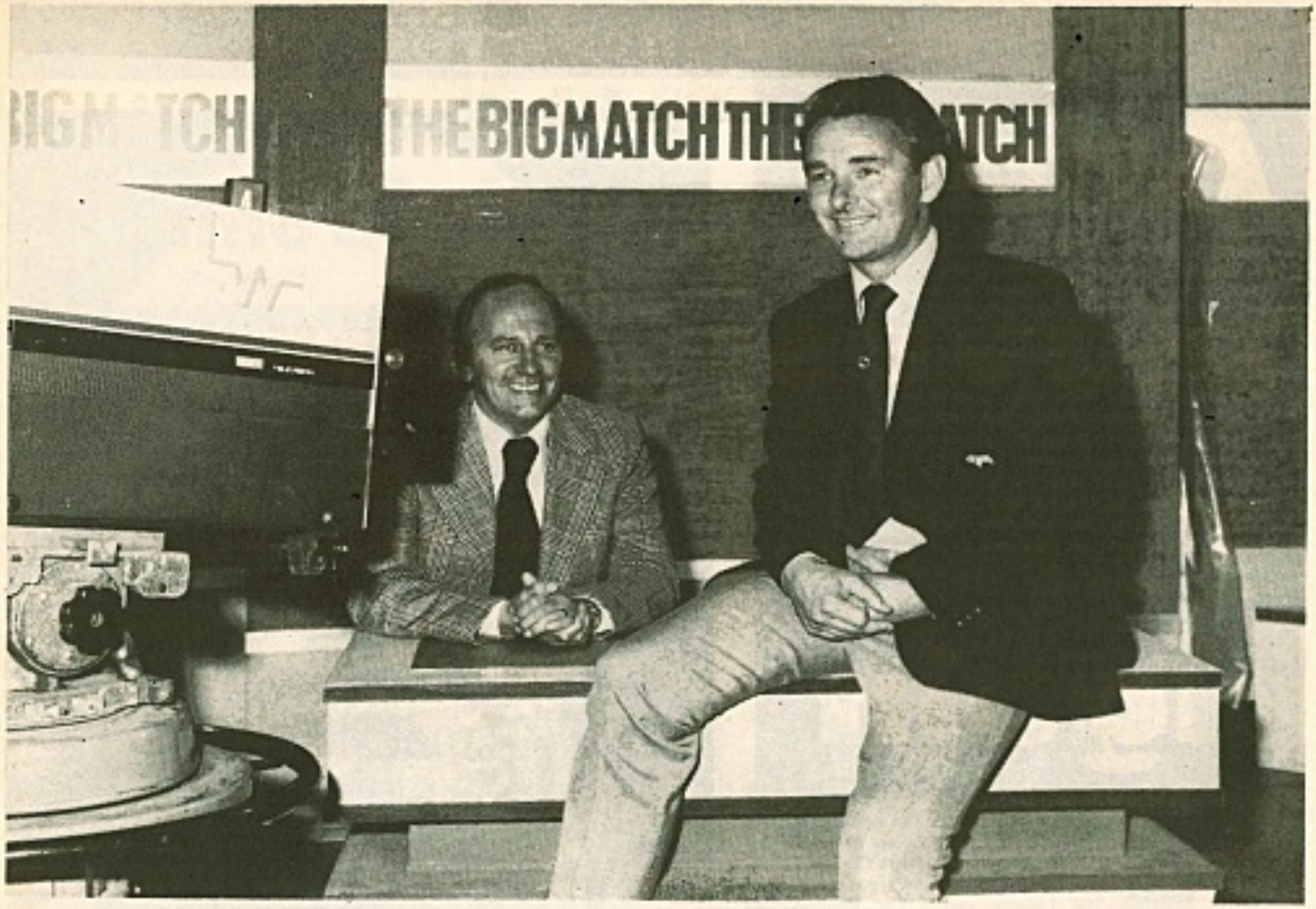


The "Big Match's" latest acquisition, Derby County manager Brian Clough, with London Weekend Television commentator Brian Moore.

time run his own local radio show in Wolverhampton.

The BBC, meanwhile, have given us a new "presenter" this season, Tony Gubba another Northerner of apparently modest and pleasing demeanour, though no more likely on the face of it than any of his predecessors to become the British equivalent of America's Howard Cosell; a forceful, fluent, opinionated commentator who, to be fair, has many sharp critics of his own.

It is not easy at all to commentate or discuss football on television. As a journalistic colleague observed once to me more in sympathy than in anger, there is a sizeable element of prostitution in the job. Television is "about" entertainment, and with ITV and BBC fighting each other for audiences, they cannot afford to denigrate whatever match they may be screening as a bad one. Thus dishonesty creeps in; and it is hard to see how to stop it.

Commentators

On the subject of commentators, I was sorry and surprised to see one of the best of the television critics, Peter Black of the *Daily Mail*, take such a hearty swipe during the summer at poor John Motson, when he was assigned to covering Wimbledon. It is true that Motson's voice is better suited to football than to tennis commentaries, that it is hardly a voice of modulated beauty, yet he is a serious, intelligent and conscientious fellow who has worked with modesty and determination at improving his football commentaries.

He seems to me at the moment much the least irritating of the BBC's generally strident stable, and he will probably get better still as time goes on. In case you may think I am damning him with faint praise, let me be quick to add that modesty in a television sports commentator is a very rare and marvellous virtue.

Monsters

The BBC in particular has thrown up some rare monsters in its time, gentlemen who took themselves at their own, inflated public value, and behaved with an arrogance which made them fearful to listen to and frightful—so one gathered—to work with.

It seemed to me particularly unfortunate that Peter Black should clout Motson over the head with the anodyne example of Peter West, whose reverential tones, however well suited to Wimbledon, are equally evident when he is dealing with the dummies of *Come Dancing*.

It is my great fear that football, continuing its Gadarene course, unmediated by administrators of talent, will eventually finish as the whore of television, just as American football has long since done, in the United States. As attendances fall away, as the colour-televised game becomes as "real" to the mass public as the real thing, as costs increase and clubs go to the wall, so television will be able to tighten the screw, and scoop into its bag the handful of major teams which is all it really wants or needs.

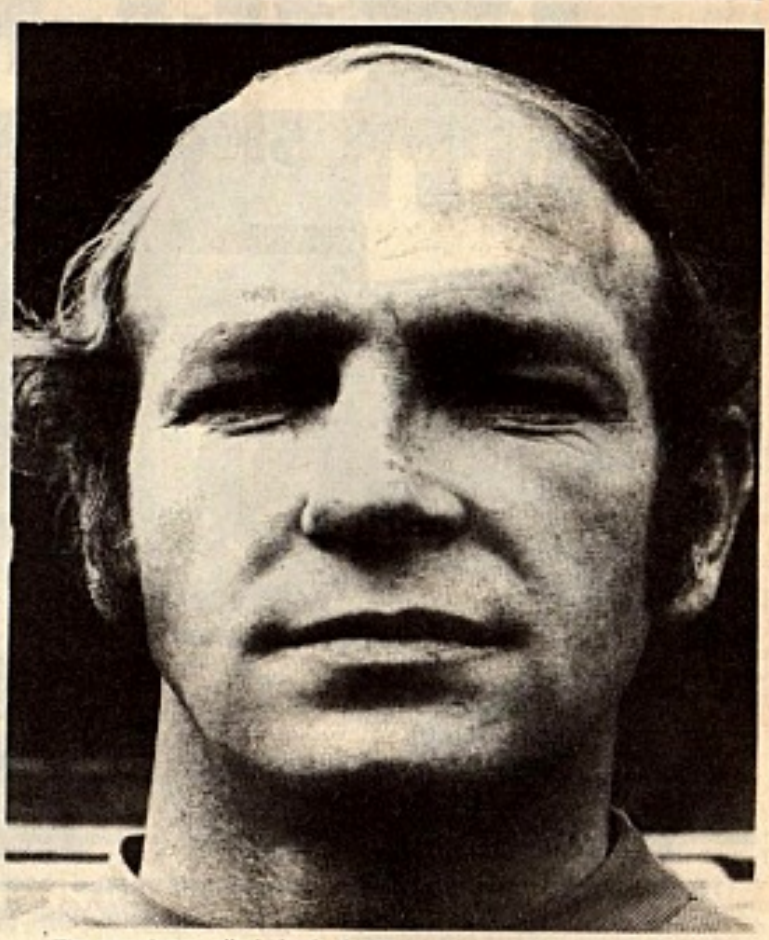
The greatest irony of it all is that television has created for soccer the largest public it has ever had, has made it a more talked of topic, a more intimately household word, than it could ever dream of being; at the same time as it is studiously helping to kill it as a professional sport. Not, of course, merely by showing it on television, though this is surely a contributory cause, but by forming a habit which is as dangerous to football as it has been to the cinema.

Delightful

This isn't to deny the existence in sports television of many a delightful and devoted fellow, with a deep love of football, and the interests of the game genuinely at heart. The conflict of basic interests would exist whether or not they were there; it is essentially the product of technology and—relative—affluence. Whether it would ultimately be a "bad thing" were soccer to become the client of television must depend on your point of view. Perhaps it may prove that without television and its patronage, the professional game would not have survived at all.

Eric Thornton writes

Andy moves yet again



The much-travelled Andy Lochhead . . . now with Oldham Athletic.

IT usually makes pleasant reading when the talking point is of the loyalties in the game, and the subjects are men who have begun and finished their soccer careers with the same club.

I always gloried in writing about such types as Jimmy Dickinson and his 764 League games for Portsmouth, Harold Bell's unbroken run of 401 fixtures for Tranmere Rovers, John Atyeo's 645 appearances for Bristol City, and Sam Bartram's 613 matches for Charlton, and so on.

Yet, somehow, more "colour" always seems readily available for stories of those who have moved on, made new friends and fresh images, then started out all over again as if a restless germ maintains a nomadic tendency.

I'm thinking on these lines, just now, because as this new season develops a great personality who first made the grade nearly *fourteen years* ago, has taken on a new lease of life, and is now busily establishing himself once more, and with another outfit.

Ability

The name this time is of none other than our old friend Andy Lochhead, the Scottish sixfooter whose finishing ability has been proved on so many occasions, and in each of the Football League's top three divisions.

Additionally, the manner in which he harassed defences while leading Aston Villa's march out of the Third Division, last year, and then almost towards the summit of the Second, the next time round, was little short of the fantastic.

Sharpened reflexes, splendid assessment, and the cunning dart through into the open spaces continually belied the fact that here was a player who had actually numbered among his team-mates Jimmy McIlroy, Tommy Cummings, Jimmy Adamson, and Brian Pilkington.

Now today, he has swapped shirts for the ninth time, and is wearing the all-blue of Oldham Athletic, the ambitious Lancashire club which is fervently hoping he'll again prove a wise investment, and lead them back to their lost spot in the Second Division.

It's been a zig-zag route to that particular part of the world, but Andy should have no difficulty mixing with the neighbours and all the rest who inhabit the busy cotton town because his early years were spent a mere 25 miles away in Burnley.

That's where the youngster who was recruited from junior fields just inside the Glasgow conurbation learned the business of professional football, the art of looking after oneself, the points of good discipline, and respect for the bosses.

Appearances

It didn't seem from his early appearances at the tail end of the fifties, however, that Andrew Lochhead, late of Renfrew, would be much to write home about. Indeed, in the first two seasons, he claimed only three goals as an inside-forward.

Then he moved better. There were twenty in 32 outings in the 62-63 campaign, eleven the following winter, and then these succeeding totals in League games—21-15-18 and a solitary single just before relegation-haunted Leicester City took him south.

Altogether, in 250 games for the Turf Moor brigade this feller with the giant's stride hit over a century of goals, which I reckon was a handsome vote of thanks for an apprenticeship in a great academy, especially remembering that Bob Lord's folk finally pocketed a nice fat transfer cheque.

The Filbert Street stay was comparatively short, with only 14 goals coming from 46 fixtures spread over two seasons, and there was disappointment that he'd not saved them from the big drop, though they couldn't blame him for their ultimate fate.

Mission

Came another courtship. Villa sought support for a rescue mission. They wanted hauling out of the Third Division, and the record will forever prove that Andy's 19 League goals did the trick.

It's putting it mildly to say that Mister Lochhead was a hero with every Villan, and there's also no denying that thirty goals in just over 130 outings proved him an excellent buy.

Now, let's see what he can do for a fourth club, this remarkable personality who had already made almost 430 appearances, and scored nearly 150 goals for his previous bosses before he accepted this new challenge.

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AUSTRALIA

ANDREW DETTRE reports

AUSTRALIA has taken yet another step towards reaching next year's World Cup finals, this time at the expense of Iran, supposedly the strongest national team in Asia.

The two matches produced some tremendous contrasts last August. First, in Sydney, a confident and aggressive Australia created and then took enough chances to score a 3-0 win. Towards the end of the first half, clearly dominated by the Aussies, lanky striker Adrian Alston volleyed a fierce shot under the bar.

The second half was a mere 15 seconds old when Attila Abonyi darted clear on the right wing and, from an "impossible" angle, whipped his shot into the near corner.

Iran revived for a short spell and even had a couple of chances but couldn't reduce the gap. In fact, towards the end, Australia made it three when Peter Wilson headed home a free kick from yards away.

Miscalculated

This convincing and seemingly comfortable three-goal lead was judged to be more than enough for the return match in Tehran six days later. However, the Aussies almost miscalculated.

The general atmosphere in Tehran was explosive. Some 2,000 irate fans awaited the return of their own team, itching to tear them apart for the Sydney fiasco; order could be restored only after the arrival of the tough riot police.

Later, the mood of the Iranian fans changed and, at every available opportunity, staged a war of nerve and attrition against the Australians. They were forced to train on grounds that had been watered for hours, darting left and right to avoid the flying missiles "keen" Iranian javelin and discus throwers were letting go, in the name of training.

Some of the cold war was directly attributable to officialdom. The fresh meat and fruit supply the Australians had taken with them—remembering their 1972 experience there—was confiscated by customs men at the airport and returned only days later.

Protest

A rumour let fly by a Tehran newspaper that the Soviet referee was ill and would be replaced by one from Pakistan also caused moments of anguish and a stiff protest from the Australian camp. Eventually, however, the rumour turned out to be just that and, in a 36 degrees C. heat, the two teams could finally line up in the giant new stadium, packed with 75,000 screaming dervishes.

Whether it was the heat, the war of nerves or just ordinary complacency, the Aussies started badly. Things got worse in the 15th minute when the referee awarded a penalty for an alleged handball and Iran pegged one goal back. Twelve minutes later Parviz Ghelichkhani scored his second goal, this one a blockbuster from 25 metres—and the jolly mood of the Australians evaporated.

Still, somehow, they lasted until half time when coach Rasic decided on a drastic tactical change, designed to slow the game to a walk and avoid taking the slightest risks.

This the Australians managed well, playing with a 4-5-1 formation and denying Iran any more chances.

It can be said that Australia deserved to win this tie with a 3-2 aggregate. Iran in Sydney and Australia in Tehran both suffered from a strange dose of overconfidence which characterised the two matches. Ultimately the deciding factor was Australia's ability to exploit the opportunities better than Iran did.

With this latest success, Australia has now emerged as winners of Asian Group B—quite an achievement if one considers that teams like Iraq, North Korea and Iran have been waylaid in the process.

The next—and final—hurdle will be the two matches against South Korea, at the end of October and middle of November, in Sydney and Seoul. The South Koreans last June won the tournament in Asian Group A eliminating, among others, Australia's traditional *bete noire*, Isreal.

The South Koreans seem to "suit" Australia. So far the teams have met four times, always in Seoul, for two Australian wins and two draws; it is difficult to imagine a sharp reversal of this trend.

Australian soccer is now holding its breath: they are two matches away from

CRUYFF HITS SPAIN

by NORMAN CUTLER

COMMAS and full-stops are out of fashion in Spain . . . the language is punctuated with CRUYFF!

Ever since Johan Cruyff's "on and off" signing for Barcelona, the country has gone mad. Barcelona's "anything you can do, I can do better" attitude has really carried them beyond the limit.

Cruyff gets in a shot despite the attention of Juventus' Anastasi and Morini.

MARCH ON
on the matches against Iran

the World Cup finals. And there is every reason to believe that they will succeed, on their third try.

In 1965 it was North Korea that crushed the Aussies in the elimination series; four years later and at the end of a long road littered with the victims of South Korea, Japan and Rhodesia, it was Israel who prevented Australia from reaching the finals, winning 1-0 in Tel Aviv and drawing 1-1 in Sydney. Now, with the two former adversaries out of the way, the Aussies are full of hopes.

It seems that coach Rale Rasic will again rely on his tried and trusted stalwarts against the Koreans. Earlier he experimented with a number of youngsters but later settled for experience and whatever available skill there was.

In goal Jim Fraser is unchallenged. The four fullbacks could again be the ones who battled it out with Iran: Doug Utjesenovic, John Watkiss, Peter Wilson and Colin Curran. However, two youngsters, George Harris and aboriginal Harry Williams are also in the squad while "iron man" Manfred Schaefer, back after a cartilege operation, may again be included.

Australian winger Attila Abonyi dashes past an Iran defender in the World Cup match played in Sydney Australia won 3-0.

Component

The midfield, usually the most reliable and brilliant component of the team, was well below its best in both matches against Iran and so it's possible that Rasic will disturb the Ray Richards-John Warren-Jim Mackay trio. Busy Jim Rooney may come into calculations or Ray Baartz may move one step back from the front line.

The choice among the strikers is woefully limited. Attila Abonyi, Adrian Alston and Max Tolson could again be the selections with Yugoslav-born Branko Buljevic another possibility.

However, the greatest headache for Rasic will be the timing of the matches against Korea. The Sydney season will end before the end of September and the players will have to be kept sharp for a month without any serious match practice.

The massive incentive of reaching the last 16 in Germany may induce the Australian Federation to arrange for some friendly matches for the national team. As for the players, they also have something to keep fit for: the £500 they each received for beating Iran will be upped to £2000 for downing the Koreans . . .

Although they have signed the "best player in the world" he cannot play for them until some uncertain date in the future, we can only hope that "uncertain" date can be brought forward as soon as possible, as it is pitiful to see a team of Barcelona's category at the bottom of the league with zero points, and that they will be better off with the famous Cruyff.

Johan Cruyff was presened to "Nou Camp Stadium" and 90,000 spectators in a friendly match against Belgium's "Cercle de Brujas" (the literal translation of "Witches Circle" is most appropriate as it inspired Barcelona to score 6 goals). Cruyff scored twice, once from a penalty in true Kubala style, and touched the ball, according to records, 73 times during the match.

Explained

At the same time he announced he would charge 40,000 pesetas (nearly £300) for interviews. That really hit the headlines! Later it was carefully explained away as a misunderstanding.

"I do not charge for interviews about football," said Cruyff, "only if I am asked to give up half a day or a long period to relate details of my private life.

The circulation of the newspapers increases because people like to read about me, so why shouldn't I charge? Regarding the game I charge nothing." Which was a great relief to the queue of reporters all holding forty new, crisp 1,000 peseta notes . . . except me!

Judging from the number of interviews he has given he would have made a fortune. Luckily he speaks English so we do not have to pay an interperter's or hangers-on fee as well.

Cruyff does not speak Spanish, yet, but he certainly understands it very well . . . especiall when the word *dinero* (money) comes into the question. A slow smile generally appears and his pale eyes light up. Irrespective of breaking his mother-in-law's heart, he is in Spain for hard CASH.

Spent

The season has started very badly for Barcelona—it might have been better to have spent the 100-million pesetas (the approximately £700,000 estimated signing fee for Cruyff — a million pesetas one way or the other, what's the difference?) on ten new players to place around centre-half Gallego.

Left-winger Rexach on the field with his right hand and forearm in plaster . . . defenser De la Cruz with his left hand bandaged . . . and the rest of the team not knowing that the real object of football is to score goals . . . make a very sad picture.

Three hundred million pesetas have been paid for fifty-nine foreign players . . . over two and a half million pounds sterling . . . is quite a price to pay in any language.

If anyone has a flair for languages, there is plenty of work now in Spain for interpreters. German, French, Yugoslavian, etc. At least the new foreigners are not lonely — they always have company to help them converse.

Ronnie Allen, Walsall's new manager (right) with five new signings . . . (left to right) Mick Kearns, David Sloan, Roger Fry, Frank Corrigan and Doug Fraser.

PORTUGAL TO WALSALL

LAST season Ronnie Allen was manager of Sporting Club of Lisbon. They finished the season as Cup winners and fourth in the league table. With this kind of success it might be expected that Allen would have remained in Portugal. Instead he has thrown in his lot with Walsall, the little Third Division club (writes BRIAN MARSHALL).

Allen, a friendly manager, who tries to answer every question with honesty and without trying to dodge the issue, unlike so many of his colleagues, knows that the challenge facing him at Walsall over the next few months could make or break him in this precarious occupation.

He makes no attempt to hide the fact that for him English soccer is the only competition he wants to be associated with as a manager. Allen says: "There is a great deal of money to be made abroad. A great deal of money—if you are successful.

"But it also has to be remembered that in some cases there is often a political set-up within the club and this is not always a good thing for the players or the manager who can find himself out of a job because his face does not fit with those in control.

"Nevertheless, I would recommend any young manager having a spell abroad. He can pick up a great deal of knowledge on how to handle players and how to put across his ideas.

"I know that I will always be grateful for the experience. But now I want to prove myself in England."

Allen could not have picked a more difficult job because when he took over at Walsall they had only eight professionals and a few apprentice professionals. This was in sharp contrast to the affluent set-up in Lisbon.

His immediate task was to recruit new players. He was in no small way assisted by his former coach, Gerry Summers, who is now manager of Oxford United. He agreed to release goalkeeper Mick Kearns and David Sloan to the Midland club.

Later he snapped up Doug Fraser from Nottingham Forest, defender Roger Fry from Southampton and a young winger, Frank Corrigan from Blackpool.

Allen was highly delighted to have been able to sign Kearns. Not so long ago he recommended Kearns to his former club, West Bromwich Albion. They did not take up the recommendation and Allen is now delighted they didn't because he feels he has a goalkeeper with First Division potential.

The arrival of these players is only half the battle. Allen is fully aware that he needs to lick the players into shape as a team and this takes time. Depending upon the outcome is his future in English soccer.

Allen says: "I know the size of the task I have taken on at Walsall. It does not frighten me. I feel I have enough experience to make a success of the job."

Already he is working harder than at any other time of his managerial career. In Spain and Portugal he had assistants to look after every facet of running a soccer club. At Walsall he has already discovered that he himself has to carry out many of the tasks.

He is enjoying the experience and feel that it makes him appreciate the working of such a club as Walsall.

Generally, he has some ideas he think would be of benefit to the English game The main one is that a team should be allowed to introduce two substitutes during a match.

This worked with success in Portuga where he was often able to take a second goalkeeper with him in case of an emergency.

Attacking

He says: "I'm hoping that we can produce an attractive brand of attacking socce at Walsall. I think this is what the fans like I know you have to play to your own strengths but I still believe that the idea situation in a team is to have five defenders and five attackers—if they are available.

"It is something I want to play at Walsall and given the right sort of luck we might well make a few people sit up and take notice of the club. The players and I know it is a big challenge but we are determined to do our best. It's about time Walsall enjoyed a run of the ball."

Toughest league in the world

THE toughest and most competitive national championship in the world—no, not the English Football League—that of Brazil, has began on August 25. The new League consists of the country's top 40 clubs, divided into two groups of 20 teams each. Since Brazil is larger than the whole of Europe, including White Russia (Byelorussia), it becomes clear that some clubs must undertake lengthy air trips to away matches. It has in fact been estimated, that several clubs will, in the course of the season, complete a mileage equivalent to travelling many times round the world.

As an example I can reveal, that a Brazilian club from the most northerly point of the country will have to journey 12 hours by jet plane to visit opponents in the extreme South! And after the match, the team will, of course, spend another 12 hours on the aircraft to get back home. Until recently, Brazil, mainly for those reasons of prohibitive distances, have been staging only regional championships. In the past few years, however, strenuous efforts were made to at last organise a truly national League championship.

Calculated

The present system of deciding this all-Brazilian campaign is nevertheless so bizarre and complicated, that it warrants to be explained in full detail: Phase One will consist of every team within the groups A and B playing against each other once. Each side will therefore take part in 19 games. Phase Two: The 40 clubs will then be divided into four groups of 10 teams each. Again, every club will meet every other team once (nine games).

Next, 20 clubs with the most points from the two initial stages, will advance into a so-called "semi-final" round. Phase Three: The 20 semi-finalists will once more be divided into two groups of 10 sides each. Every team must play once against all others (nine games). Phase Four: The two group winners will dispute the grand championship final on a home-and-away basis. But even without the semi-final and final rounds, many clubs are expected to spend at least 70 hours travelling by air!

Brazil's new system of finding the best team in the country has its critics, but is certainly adventurous and calculated to bring additional excitement to the battles for points. The standard of club football in Brazil is widely regarded as the highest in the world. No other country could conceivably select 40 teams worthy to dispute the national championship in a single competition.

It is worth bearing in mind, that just because Brazilian club sides do not often perform under normal conditions in Europe, and therefore little is known here of their true strength, they are frequently ignored by European commentators. But this lack of direct comparison with our clubs doesn't mean that the South Americans are inferior.

On the contrary, I am reminded that a few years ago the French monthly soccer magazine, *Miroir du Football*, took the trouble to send out reporters and photographers on a fact finding mission. The French experts, who spent several weeks in Brazil, were astonished at the high class displays by teams and players no one has ever heard of in Europe.

And clearly, the land of the world champions also produces a whole string of players, who on average are superior in natural skill and technique to their counterparts in Europe, or elsewhere for that matter. No wonder that Brazil has produced more world-class men than any other country and even in their minor leagues there are dozens of performers who stand head and shoulders above their contemporaries in Europe.

The Brazilians could just as easily pick several national sides who would beat any country's equivalent selections, as they can put up any number of clubs to defeat on an overall count the same number of opponents from any other land, on a home-and-away basis. Most international experts, or should I say experts on international football, would certainly back 20-30 Brazilian teams against any other country's equivalent number of clubs.

The new League programme will be completed by March next year, to allow sufficient time for the national squad to start their preparations for the defence of the World Cup in West Germany. As in the previous series, the main problem for the Brazilian selectors will be not who to put in, but who to leave out. It is, however, a small price to pay for having the largest reservoir of top-class players in the world!

Roberto Rivelino of Corinthians.

POLAND
Complete International Record

	P	W	T	L	F	A
Albania	6	3	2	1	9	4
Argentina	2	0	1	1	1	2
Austria	2	1	0	1	3	5
Belgium	8	4	2	2	15	9
Bulgaria	19	4	7	8	30	30
Brazil	3	0	0	3	9	14
Columbia	1	1	0	0	5	1
Czechoslovakia	15	3	3	9	23	34
Denmark	12	4	1	7	23	25
Eire	11	6	3	2	26	14
England	3	1	1	1	3	2
Estonia	4	3	1	0	12	1
Finland	15	12	1	2	56	18
France	5	1	1	3	7	13
East Germany	12	6	3	3	16	16
West Germany	9	0	3	6	5	18
Ghana	1	1	0	0	4	0
Greece	4	3	0	1	13	3
Hungary	19	2	1	16	18	68
Northern Ireland	2	0	0	2	0	4
Israel	3	1	2	0	8	3
Italy	2	0	1	1	1	6
Latvia	7	4	2	1	22	12
Luxembourg	4	3	1	0	17	2
Morocco	2	2	0	0	8	1
Netherlands	3	1	1	1	2	2
Norway	10	6	2	2	40	18
Rumania	20	1	10	9	31	38
Scotland	4	2	1	1	7	6
Spain	4	2	0	2	6	7
Sweden	13	5	3	5	28	32
Switzerland	4	1	3	0	8	6
Tunisia	1	1	0	0	6	1
Turkey	11	7	2	2	30	10
United States	3	1	1	1	9	6
U.S.S.R.	8	4	1	3	9	15
Wales	1	0	0	1	0	2
Yugoslavia	16	5	3	8	36	43

(NOTE: Minus recent North American tour results against Canada, U.S.A. and Mexico).

POLAND
International Results 1970-73

April	1970	Moscow	U.S.S.R.	Won	2-0
May	1970	Budapest	Hungary	Lost	0-2
		Poznan	Eire	Won	2-1
		Krakow	East Germany	Tie	1-1
		Copenhagen	Denmark	Won	2-0
Sept	1970	Warsaw	Denmark	Won	5-0
		Rostock	East Germany	Lost	0-5
		Dublin	Eire	Won	2-0
Oct	1970	Warsaw	Albania	Won	3-0
		Prague	Chechoslovakia	Tie	2-2
May	1971	Lausanne	Switzerland	Won	4-2
		Tirana	Albania	Tie	1-1
		Poznan	Greece	Won	7-0*
June	1971	Larisa	Greece	Won	1-0*
Aug	1971	Danzig	U.S.S.R.	Tie	1-1
Sept	1971	Kracow	Turkey	Won	5-1
Oct	1971	Warsaw	West Germany	Lost	1-3
		Chorzow	Albania	Won	3-0
Nov	1971	Gijon	Spain	Won	2-0*
		Hamburg	West Germany	Tie	0-0
Dec	1971	Smyrna	Turkey	Lost	0-1
April	1972	Lodz	East Germany	Won	2-1
		Stara Zagora	Bulgaria	Lost	1-3*
		Warsaw	Spain	Won	2-0*
May	1972	Warsaw	Bulgaria	Won	3-0*
		Poznan	Switzerland	Tie	0-0
Aug	1972	Ingolstadt	Columbia	Won	5-1*
		Regensburg	Ghana	Won	4-0*
Sept	1972	Nuremberg	East Germany	Won	2-1*
		Regensburg	Denmark	Tie	1-1*
		Augsburg	U.S.S.R.	Won	2-1*
		Nuremberg	Morocco	Won	5-0*
		Munich	Hungary	Won	2-1*
			Czechoslovakia	Won	3-0
March	1973	Lodz	United States	Won	4-0
		Cardiff	Wales	Lost	0-2**
May	1973	Warsaw	Yugoslavia	Tie	2-2
			Eire	Won	2-0
June	1973	Chorzow	England	Won	2-0**

* *Olympic Games* ** *World Cup Games*

(NOTE: Minus recent North American tour results).

CANADA HAVE CA MAJOR

A GOAL after ten minutes by 19-year-old Gary Aubert of Winnipe Fort Rouge, making his international debut, got Canada of to a great start in their international against Poland in Toronto.

Playing before a crowd of 18,524 (a record to see Canada i Canada) including many of Polish origin, Canada held on to thei lead until the eighth minute of the second half when Gadoch equalised from a free kick, writes COLIN JOSE.

Even then it took the Poles until seven minutes from the end t score the winner. Gorgon scoring from 35 yards with a drive tha crept under the goalkeeper's body. Five minutes later Polan scored their third, with Gadocha, their most dangerous attacke getting his second.

Poland, who played without Lubanski and Kraska, who wer left behind in Poland due to injury, enjoyed a large territoria advantage throughout the game, but the honours went to a largel inexperienced Canadian team that included eight players in it starting line-up who were born in Canada.

Outstanding in the Canadian defence was 18-year-old Readin centre back Bobby Lenarduzzi, who was born in Vancouver bu moved to England when he was 15 and played six games in th Fourth Division at the end of last season. It was his internationa debut.

Playing alongside him at right back was his brother Sam Lenard uzzi making his 23rd appearance for Canada, and playing one of th finest games of his career. Sam played briefly in Reading's Combina tion League team in 1970 but chose to return to Canada.

Other players with English experience in the Canadian team wer Glen Johnson, who played a total of four First Division games fo

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Jan TOMASZEWSKI. Goalkeeper. Born in Wroclaw and is 25 years old and stands 6ft 3 inches in height. Plays for LKS Lodz and has made six international appearances for Poland including the recent game against England.

Marian SZEJA. Goalkeeper. The oldest member of the team at 32 he stands 6ft. 1in and has made 12 international appearances. Keeps goal for Zaglebie Walbrzych in club soccer and would probably have gained more prominence but for the play of Hubert Kostka the well known Gornik Zabrze goalkeeper who is his contemporary.

Miroslaw BULZACKI. Defender. Born in Lodz and plays for his home town club LKS Lodz. A relative newcomer to international soccer he has made four appearances for Poland one of those against England. At 6ft 1in he is rarely beaten in the air.

Leslaw CMIKIEWICZ. Defender. Born in Wroclaw and a member of the team that won the Olympic championship. An experienced international with 21 games to his credit, Leslaw is the mainstay of the defence both for his country and his club Legia Warsaw, although he is just 5ft 8 inches tall.

Jerzy GORGON. Defender. Born in the coal mining town of Zabrze in Silesia and a member of Poland's best known club team Gornik Zabrze. Played for Gornik in the European Cup Winners Cup Final in 1970 against Manchester City. Has played 22 times for his country including the Olympic final and the England game. At 6ft 2in his height is a definite advantage in the air.

Adam MUSIAL. Defender. Born in Wieczka near Krakow and plays for Wisla Krakow. A skilful talented full back with an excellent sense of positional play. At 25 years of age he has played 15 times for his country and was in the line up against England.

Krzysztof RZESNY. Defender. A relative newcomer to international football with one game for Poland to his credit. Rzesny was brought into the team against England to add experience to the defence. At 27 years old he has played well for his club Stal Mielec this past season, a season in which they won the Polish championship for the first time.

Antoni SZYMANOWSKI. Defender. At 23 years of age he has played 19 times for his country, and is a regular member of the defence of Wisla Krakow one of Poland's strongest clubs. Another tall defender at 5ft 11 inches.

Kazimierz DEYNA. Midfield. Born in Starogard Gdanski just south of the port of Gdansk on the Baltic Sea, Deyna can play either in midfield or in the attack. One of Poland's most famous players with 41 internationals to his credit, Deyna scored both goals in the Olympic final in 1972. Voted the sixth best player in Europe last year in the annual poll by *France Football*. Has now scored 24 goals for Poland, and plays his club football for Legia Warsaw.

Andrzej DROZDOWSKI. Midfield. Born in Pabianice near Lodz and was quickly spotted by LKS Lodz and added to their roster. At 23 a newcomer to international soccer he made his international debut against Canada in Toronto in August.

ACOULD AUSED RUPSET

West Bromwich Albion between 1970 and 1972. Bruce Twamley, currently with Ipswich Town and playing in the Combination League, and Buzz Parsons who played several games for Huddersfield Town's Central League team in 1969.

Despite considerable pressure the Poles rarely found a way through the middle of the Canadian defence where Bobby Lenarduzzi and Kevin Grant, who was born in Willesden but came to Canada when he was 15, along with captain Neil Ellett all played very effectively.

But in the end it was skill and speed that made the difference with Deyna and Gadocha in particular playing very well. Even so had Canada taken its chances as the Poles threw everything into attack to get the equaliser then the Canadians could have pulled a major upset.

Five days later playing against the United States in the southern Ontario city of Windsor it was anti-climax for Canada as they went down 0-2 despite having 70 per cent of the game. The Canadian players, with the exception of the Lenarduzzi brothers and centre back Bill Millar, taking Grant's place, all played below their potential and never really looked like beating Mike Ivanow in the U.S. goal.

Before the game the Canadian General Manager John McMahon protested to the U.S. officials over the inclusion in the American team of two players—Mike Hoban and Paul Child of the Atlanta Apollos of the North American Soccer League—claiming that they were not U.S. citizens. Hoban and Child have been on loan in the last three years to Atlanta from Aston Villa and were born in England.

The U.S. goals were scored by Fred Grgurev and Mark Liveric from New York Dalmatinac of the German-American League at the 15th and 67th minutes respectively.

Jerzy Kraska of Poland.

Henryk KASPERCZAK. Midfield. Although born in Zabrze plays for Poland's new champions Stal Mielec. At 27 years old Henryk has played in five internationals for Poland and scored one goal.

Kazimierz KMIECIK. Midfield. A young 22-year-old midfield player who can also perform equally effectively on the wing. Is very fast and has now played five times for Poland and scored one goal. Plays his club soccer for Wisla Krakow.

Jerzy KRASKA. Midfield. Born in Plock, a city in central Poland on the Vistula River. Jerzy has become a fixture in the Polish midfield in recent years and won a gold medal in the Olympics last year. Plays for Gwardia Warsaw and has represented his country 14 times including the game against England.

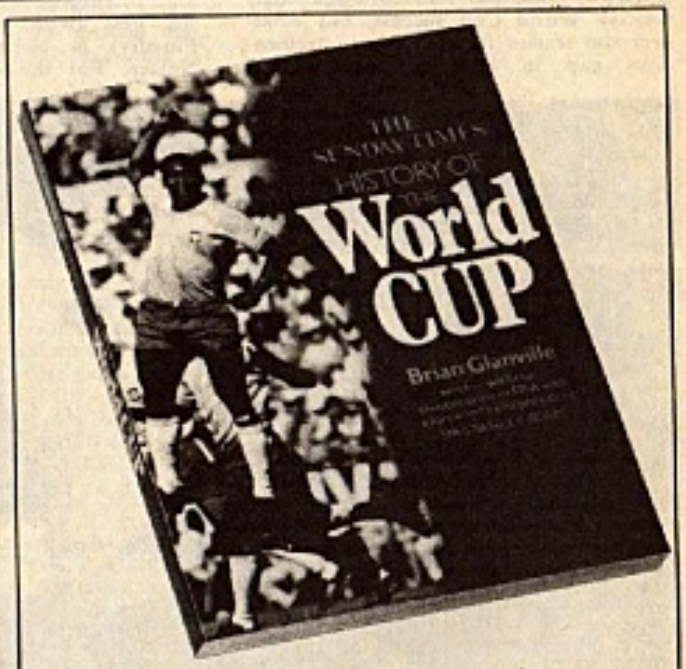
Andrzej SZARMACH. Midfield. Born in Gdansk (formerly Danzig) on the Baltic coast and at 23 one of the up and coming players with Gornik Zabrze. Although listed as a midfield player made his international debut against Canada in Toronto this summer as Poland's central striker.

Jan DOMARSKI. Forward. Born in Rzeszow a city in south-eastern Poland Jan is yet another player in the squad who has been instrumental in leading Stal Mielec to their first ever Polish championship. He made his international debut in the game against England coming on as a substitute for the famous Wlodzimierz Lubanski.

Jan BANAS. Forward. One of Poland's most experienced forwards Jan was born in Berlin in 1943 but is now a naturalised Pole. Played for Gornik Zabrze in the European Cup Winners Cup Final in 1970 and has played 31 games in all for Poland while scoring four goals. Played in the recent game against England in the centre of the attack.

Robert GADOCHA. Forward. Perhaps one of the better wingers in European soccer today Gadocha is 27 years old and was born in Krakow. Has an excellent understanding with Deyna his club mate at Legia Warsaw and has played 38 times for Poland scoring 15 goals. One of those goals was in the recent game against England where he opened the scoring. Also won a gold medal in the Olympics last year.

Wlodzimierz LUBANSKI. Forward. Born in the little town of Gliwice in 1947 the fair haired Lubanski is perhaps the best known of all the current Polish players. Made his international debut at the age of 16 in a 9-0 thrashing of Norway and now at 26 has made 64 appearances for his country. Played for the Rest of the World against the U.S.S.R. in Moscow last year in Lev Yascha's testimonial, and for Europe against South America in Switzerland. Plays his club soccer for Gornik Zabrze for whom he has played over 300 league games and scored more than 100 goals.



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Bulgaria should but they've g

ERIC BATTY reports from SOFIA

IN their World Cup group the Bulgarians must be favourites. Clear leaders of their group they have a home match with Cyprus to come and assuming that is won, as it clearly should be, then all all they need is one point from their two away matches against Portugal and Northern Ireland to qualify.

On paper it looks good, but scratch beneath the surface and real problems are exposed. The rub of it all revolves around what I think is best called a generation gap. I don't know what or how — but from present observation I would say that something went seriously wrong with the Bulgarian game around 1965-66. I don't mean wrong at top level, but within the organisation and administration and, in particular, with regard to the recruitment of young players.

At that time, of course, the Bulgarians were qualifying for the final stages of the 1966 World Cup and with Dimitr Yakimov the key man doing well in the Liverpool Group. Perhaps it was complacency, cockiness that followed their relative World Cup success, but whatever the reason there is now a tremendous gap in terms of ability and experience of their players and their ages.

On the one hand are the stars of the 1966 and 1970 World Cups — Penev, Jetchev, Jekov, Dermendiev and Yakimov —on the other, quite a large number of talented players in the very early twenties.

Yakimov has retired; Jekov is playing as if it was time he followed suit in spite of his 29 league goals last season, which earned him third place in the European scorers list and a Bronze boot, and Dermendiev, who played in the recent game against Poland, had a shocker and was taken off at the interval. This leaves only Penev and Jetchev to form the experienced nucleus that every team challenging for real honours must have.

To go with them there is Bojil Kolev, strong and aggressive who can play a little bit and the tremendously skilful and intelligent Christo Bonev who at his best (with his club Lokomotive Plovdiv) is comparable with Gunter Netzer. For the rest there's a lot of talent but few players ready now — which is national team boss Christo Mladenov's real headache.

One thing the Bulgarians are not short of is a good class 'keeper. Unlike many central European countries, Hungary for example, the Bulgarians appear to have as many good 'keepers as they do peach trees.

Of course, the temperament to play at international level is a vital factor but judging on performances at club level, Stankov (Levski), Jordanov (CSKA), Goranov (Lokomotive Sofia), Bonev (Lokomotive Plovdiv) and Solov (Slavia) all looked extremely capable.

Not only were they all good on the shot and confident in dealing with high crosses but all showed remarkable and consistent courage in going and down at the feet of oncoming forwards who were through with a clear run to goal.

Amongst the front players that impressed me were the Levski pair, centre forward Milanov and left winger Vojkov, the last named being quick, skilful and even better when he was switched to the right wing in the second half. Supporting them and making good runs (with and without the ball) was another very promising player — Panov, but all are relatively young and inexperienced.

CSKA's left wing pair, Danev and Marachliev, also looked good but on the night I saw them they were without support for Jekov (who did nothing right) and was replaced in the second half by Zlatkov. In that match, the local derby against Lokomotive, the army team were held by a blatantly defensive opponent clearly content to defend and break away only occasionally.

CSKA showed their limitations by being totally unable to free Danev and Larachliev and a lot of time-wasting plus a fine individual goal by Borisov gave Lokomotive a 1-0 win. Borisov, though clearly popular with the supporters has never been popular with national team managers.

Though he scored a fine goal — going past three men in a fine solo run of more than 40 yards to hit a fine shot from just inside the box — he appears to prefer playing on his own.

Lokomotive's international forward Michailov looked very good. Skilful and quick he bends his shots, runs well and against CSKA was brought down by a fine rugby tackle at one stage and two minutes from time was blatantly chopped down for a penalty kick that wasn't given.

Christo Bonev of Lokomotive Plovdiv and the new 'white hope' of Bulgarian football.

reach last 16
ot problems

There is talent there but much of it has been uncapped, probably through an understandable preference to retain proven players, but a policy which could prove disastrous if changes are not made quickly.

Amongst the more obvious features were some of the ailments that afflict the game in almost every country in Europe. Without exception defences were deep and well organised, with a free back to be seen in every side. Schalamanov, the former right back in the national side, is now playing this role for Slavia and doing it well, too.

Terrified

Again, the standard of refereeing was consistent but bad. Lack of courage seems to be the prime failing, as elsewhere. Blatant and persistent foul play brings nothing more than finger wagging and free kicks. Referees don't see penalties and appear to be terrified of sending anyone off. Thus the balance is tipped in favour of the defenders . . . all the time.

On the point of referees, I heard from a friend who covered an international Youth tournament in Plovdiv recently that a Greek journalist was cursing the officials, who in the interests of economy were provided by Bulgaria the host country. My friend quizzed the Greek: "Do you have good referees in Greece?" The Greek's answer was at least honest — and stopped the moaning . . . 'NO'.

The fourth round of the League programme provided two interesting derby games in Sofia Levski-Spartak v Slavia and CSKA v Lokomotive. Both were staged at the Vassil Levski stadium and though the ground was more than half empty on both occasions one wonders if the complaints against televised football are really justified in all countries.

Here for example, the two derbies were played on Saturday and Sunday evenings. Both were screened live and in full on TV, and it was known well in advance. Despite this, 25,000 watched the CSKA match on Saturday while 28,000 paid to see Levski 'in the flesh'. In a city of just over a million (with five First Division teams) this wasn't bad at the height of the holiday period.

That same weekend, 30,000 saw Lokomotive Plovdiv play at home. In smaller provincial towns 10,000 and 8,000 crowds were general all despite two games being shown on TV. Only in Varna was there a really poor crowd . . . 4,000 and to be fair, keen as I am I wouldn't want to go and see either of the two clubs who play — Cernomore or GSK Spartak — more than once.

One other general feature must be highlighted. Though there is practically no cover at all from the elements at any ground in Bulgaria, every spectator gets a seat. One hears talk that "all-seating" would cut down incidents amongst spectators but like everything else it costs money. But in Bulgaria, though many clubs are short of training facilities the fans have been given the financial priority.

In Sofia, for example, there is the 70,000 seat Vassil Levski stadium, used for international matches and by each of the Sofia clubs in turn when they play local derbies. But they also have their own compact grounds for matches against provincial clubs and they too are all seated. Levski-Spartak for example have their own Levski stadium accommodating 50,000 as well as the Rakovski stadium once used by Spartak before they amalgamated.

CSKA have room for 35,000; Slavia can accommodate 20,000 and Lokomotive have a new little ground that holds 10,000. I say again — everyone is seated.

On the opening day of the campaign Beroe (Stara Zagora) hammered Mineur (Pernik) by 8-0 with international centre forward Petko Petkov getting five of them. That same weekend CSKA ominously struggled to a 0-0 draw against neighbours Akademik, while Levski failed to impress first time out.

Though they improved to top the table after five matches (with 9 points) and look as if they mean to take the title from the Army once more they too had a bad time in their first game. Away to Cernomore who have little to offer but enthusiasm and the willingness to have a go, Levski could only win 3-2.

Organised

Three weeks later, Lokomotive Plovdiv went to Varna and showed just how easily Cernomore can be taken apart but they had Christo Bonev at his best and a very well balanced and organised side. That same day Petkov and Beroe struck again, getting eight once more in an 8-1 win at home to Botev Vratza from which Petkov took a hat trick.

After five games, Petkov has ten goals to his credit thought he did precious little right against Poland. After an hour in that match Christov (Dounav Rousse) replaced him. If Petkov failed against the Poles so too did Bonev and it seems certain that Christo Mladenov must make changes if Bulgaria are to clinch their claim to a place in the World Cup next year. .

Fortunately for me, Bonev returned to Varna a week later with his club Lokomotive Plovdiv and there, full of confidence he showed it all against Cernomore. From what I saw, Lokomotive are quite the best that Bulgaria can offer at the moment and appear to be much improved even on last season for their entire attack now appears to be individually useful and able to take goals instead of leaving it all to Bonev.

Bonev took command early and after several good moves Lokomotive scored following a free kick. Left winger Georgiev took the shot which hit the 'wall' and dropped nicely for outside Vasilev to hammer home. 1-0. Minutes later following a well built move Vasilev to hammer home. 1-0. Minutes later following a well built move Vasilev crossed from the right and Bonev, in space, leaped into the air to hit a glorious right foot volley that thundered against the bar and shot up and over like a rocket.

Past

In the second half Bonev & Co really took the Black Seamen to the cleaners. Georgiev went away down the left, dribbling at speed past two men each of whom tried to foul him but he recovered each time to go on and cross hard and low for centre forward Ivanov to side foot home. 2-0.

Now Bonev went away through the middle on a solo — stopped by a tackle that I couldn't decide was more suitable for rugby or wrestling. A few minutes later, Bonev interchanging often with Ivanov at centre forward went off again, this time covering 40 yards and feinting whenever an opponent got close enough to foul him. He beat two men brilliantly and slotted the ball home as the 'keeper came out.

Lokomotive got cocky then, thinking it was easy and Cernomore grabbed two soft goals before Bonev produced a late climax just when the home fans were howling for an equaliser. Feinting and dribbling, Bonev went through the middle again. This time circumnavigating five men. Again the 'keeper came out and Bonev ghosted past him, but in so doing he was forced wide and gave time to the Cernomore defenders to get back.

Screening the ball with his back to goal Bonev, turned, feinted and slotted the ball through a crowd of six defenders to the six-yard line where Vasiler shot first time to make it 4-2.

Can Ba
first h

ARTHUR ROTMIL reports

WHO can stop Bayern Munich from completing the first hat-trick of championship victories? In the 70-year-old history of German soccer no club has managed to win three successive titles. Is there a team in the *Bundesliga* capable of halting Bayern's progress? This is the question now widely discussed all over the country, especially as the early results of the new campaign are confirming Bayern's exalted position.

The activities on the transfer market also seemed to favour the defending champions. For both their chief rivals have parted with top stars, whilst the Bavarians managed to strengthen their side. And they did so by buying the international midfield ace Jupp Kapellmann—from one of their major challengers, Fc Cologne! Munich's other principal foes, Borussia Mönchengladbach, were also weakened by the departure of their captain and schemer Gunter Metzer, who joined Real Madrid. Bayern too, nearly lost their star goalgetter Gerd Muller, who was put on the spot by several fabulous cash offers from the other Spanish giants, CF Barcelona.

Conflicting

The whole of Germany was on tenterhooks as almost every day one sensational development appeared to chase another. Bizarre stories, of constantly raised astronomical fees, reports of closed-door meetings conflicting accounts of Muller's intentions on the recurring theme "will he go, or will he stay", were hitting the headlines in all medias. Usually well informed sources delivered eagerly anticipated details of further staggering offers allegedly made by a number of Spanish clubs for various German internationals. Barcelona were chasing winger Erwin Kremers (24). The same club, together with Valencia, were reported to have made bids for Uli Hoeness (21). Valencia and Malaga also tried for Wolfgang Overath (29), while his Cologne team mate Heinz Flohe (25) was being tempted by Atletico Madrid.

Exodus

Eventually, the German Federation stepped in with a plan to halt a possible mass exodus, by threatening to suspend any member of the international squad who ventured abroad. The DFB, much to the relief of the clubs, managers and the millions of fans, simply cannot afford to permit the top stars to leave the country and has refused to be a party to a total disintegration of the national side, barely a few months before the World Cup finals are due to be staged in this country. And so Muller and others ready to follow Netzer's footsteps will now have to wait, at least until next July.

Bayern, nonetheless, smashed the German transfer record when the club was ordered by a DFB court to pay Cologne 804,000 D.Marks for Kapellmann (24). Of course this sum, even at the devalued rate for the pound sterling, now worth just 6 Marks, represents only £134,000, which by English or Italian standards is pretty low. Kapellmann, who appears to have established himself in the national side, will take over as a linkman between defence and attack, thus relieving Hoeness and Roth, in midfield.

Bayern's biggest problem remains the incredibly charged fixture list which would cause many English managers to resign in protest and would make most English players demand "industrial action" from their Players Union. In effect, Bayern have played 17 matches in 23 days (I repeat in words, seventeen matches in twenty three days)—just before the season had begun! And even during the first week of the championship, the Munich boys popped over to Spain to take part in a tournament in which they slammed Real Madrid by 5-1 and Atletico Bilbao by 2-1!

'Netzer received a tremendous welcome when he returned in his new colours of Real Madrid'

But, as the management explained: "The players demand high salaries and bonuses. The only way we can oblige is by collecting as much as possible at the gate, or by accepting overseas invitations at 50,000 D.Marks (£8,000) a time! How this mammoth programme will affect their chances of winning another national title, remains to be seen.

This tremendous physical strain may also have repercussions for the national side. Bayern now boast seven members of the current national squad in their ranks: Maier, Beckenbauer, Schwarzenbeck, Breitner, Hoeness Kapellmann and Muller. If, as expected, the club will complete something like 90-100 matches this season, in what physical and mental state will some of the country's leading stars begin their preparations for the World Cup finals?

Which brings me to the delicate question of Germany's super star, now earning his living in Spain. No other transfer has ever stirred the emotions of the German fans as much as the departure of the idolised Gunter Netzer to Madrid. His contract with Borussia Mönchengladbach was due to end anyway, but Netzer, who is quite patriotic, was visibly torn between his loyalties to the club with whom he had started his career in 1963 and with whom he rose to world fame. On the other hand, Borussia could not match the staggering "offer-of-a-lifetime" made to their brilliant captain by the world famous Spanish club.

Netzer expects to earn about £66,000 per season, from his two year contract. But the crux of the matter lies in the fact that even if Borussia, or indeed any other German club, could afford to pay Netzer that much in salary and bonuses, he would be infinitely worse off here, having to pay taxes and other outgoings, estimated at roughly 60 per cent of his earnings.

Therefore in Germany he would have to collect something like 2 million Marks (£330,000) in two years to equal the remuneration offered to him by the Spaniards—without the problems of taxation! Borussia is reported to have collected £165,000 in transfer fee, plus £50,000 from two friendlies with Real Madrid, one at home and one in Spain.

New colours

Netzer received a tremendous welcome when he returned to Monchengladbach wearing his new colours of Madrid. A full house of 35,000 watched an exciting match in which Borussia beat Real by 4-2. And Netzer was once more elected Germany's "Footballer of the Year"! He gained 128 votes, heading Franz Beckenbauer (114), Gerd Muller (50), Erwin Kremers (48), Paul Breitner (31) and Berti Vogts (26). And Netzer is the first player to win this coveted title twice in succession.

Borussia soon found a replacement for their midfield ace, having secured the services of Horst Koppel (25), who had left Gladbach in 1971 and spent the past couple of years with VFB Stuttgart. Borussia are well served in midfield anyway with Wimmer, Danner, Kulik, Michalik and now Koppel, all fighting for first team places.

ayern score hat-trick?

They will present a powerful challenge to Bayern Munich in the championship and must be rated among the favourites in the Cup Winners Cup tournament. German clubs should once again mount a massive assault on the various European trophies, and some of them will undoubtedly reflect the growing strength of club football in this country.

The standard of play in the *Bundesliga* has rarely been higher. Last season, their National League produced an average of 3.41 goals per match. This is nearly a goal per game more than mustered in the English First Division, in which the ratio slumped to merely 2.50 goals per match.

The 18 clubs boast 41 internationals, not counting the capped foreign stars who are active here. Not surprisingly Bayern and Borussia Monchengladbach boast the highest number of capped players. Only one club has no internationals at all, VfL Bochum.

Careers

Nine internationals have either ended their careers or moved elsewhere: Willi Schulz, Karl-Heinz Thielen, Hartmut Heidemann, Werner Kramer and Friedel Lutz have retired; Bleidick has become a coach in Ghana, club mate Netzer left for Madrid, whilst the two Brunswick stars Bernd Franke and Joachim Base were relegated with Eintracht into the Regional-Liga. Two internationals were promoted with their clubs: Wolfgang Fahrian with Fortuna Cologne and Ferner with Rotweiss Essen.

Four capped men changed clubs within the *Bundesliga* namely Laumen from Werder Bremen to Kaiserslautern, Neuberger from Bremen to Wuppertal, Koppel from Stuttgart to Gladbach and Kapellmann from Cologne to Bayern. Here is the list of the 41 internationals:

Bayern — 8: Beckenbauer (68 caps), Muller (46), Maier (45), Schwarzenbeck (17), Breitner (14), Hoeness (10), Roth (4) and Kapellmann (2).

Borussia Monchengladbach — 8: Vogts (45), Heynckes (22), Wimmer (19), Sieloff (14), Koppel (10), Kleff (2), Bonhof and Rupp (1 each).

FC Cologne — 5: Overath (69), Weber (48), Lohr (20), Flohe (9), and Cullmann (4).

Werder Bremen — 4: Hottges (58), Bernard (5), Dietrich and Zembski (1 each).

Schalke — 2: Fichtel (23) and Erwin Kremers (9).

Hamburger SV — 2: Volkert (6) and Zaczyk (1).

Hertha Berlin — 2: Wolter (13) and Ludwig Muller (6).

Kickers Offenbach — 1: Held (40).

Eintracht Frankfurt — 1: Grabowski (29).

Fortuna Cologne — 1: Fahrian (10).

MSV Duisburg — 1: Bella (4).

Hannover — 1: Siemensmayer (3).

Fortuna Dusseldorf — 1: Geye (2).

Wuppertaler SV — 1: Neuberger (2).

Rotweiss Essen — 1: Ferner (2).

Kaiserslautern — 1: Laumen (2).

VfB Stuttgart — 1: Brenninger (1).

The *Bundesliga* was launched into its second decade. After last season's slump in attendances, partly caused by the bribery scandals and to some extent by the saturation with sporting events from the Olympic Games, the main interest centred on the gates. But happily the fans returned in force: 200,000 watched the nine games on the opening day—82,000 more than at the start last year! Another 270,000 turned out on second match day, for an average of 30,000 per game. And this pattern was repeated on the subsequent days!

But the biggest crowd was registered at a Regional-League match between 1860 Munich and FC Augsburg (with Helmut Haller!). 73,000 fans packed the Olympic Stadium in Munich, whilst another 5,000-10,000 tried to force their way in! In the resulting crush, and including those who attempted to climb over the fencing, 136 people were hurt!

Paul Breitner of Bayern Munich.

WORLD SOCCER DIARY...WORLD SOCCER DIARY...WORLD SOCCER DIARY..

Kovacs' new broom...C debut...Burma strike g case reopened...Poland

THERE'S nothing like a change for improving things. Certainly this is what the French must be saying after their new look squad under newly appointed Manager Stefan Kovacs, beat Greece 3-1.

Kovacs came in sweeping his new broom and out went many of the old established stars of the French firmament. He introduced five youngsters who had not been capped previously and in all kept only three of the side which beat Greece by the same score a year ago in Athens.

In between of course, France has seen her World Cup hopes dashed again, and the signing of Kovacs who had led Ajax to another European Cup success was hailed as a master stroke.

CRUYFF STRIKES TWICE

Johan Cruyff made his long awaited debut for Barcelona in a friendly against Cercle Bruges, not the Belgian champions, but their neighbours. Cruyff scored twice in a 6-0 win which appears to have pleased everyone—everyone except his old club Ajax who drew their next two League matches 1-1 and are now trailing rivals Feyenoord in the table.

The fee mentioned in the transfer, £922,300, has just about broken every financial record of its kind and is still twice as much as the previous highest transfer variously described at around £440,000 for Pietro Anastasi from Varese to Juventus in 1968 and more recently a fee near this figure for Pierino Prati from AC Milan to AS Roma.

Another newcomer to Spanish football is Kurt Jara the Austrian international left winger who has joined Valencia from Swarovski Wacker Innsbruck for a record Austrian fee of £200,000.

Twenty-two year old Jara was the subject of transfer talks from Barcelona and appeared likely to move there, but the deal fell through after a question of medical fitness.

The Spanish club have agreed to release Jara for six international matches each year which should please the Austrians.

Four die in hoax

Police in Teresina, the north-eastern capital of Brazil searched for a hoaxer who caused the death of four spectators at the Tiradentes v Fluminense match.

He shouted, "the stadium is falling down," and two thousand fans panicked and stampeded to safety, but in the rush four people died. Eighty spectators were injured, twenty of them seriously.

The match was a goalless draw.

BURMA VICTORY

Burma won the Gold Medal at the Seventh South East Asian Peninsula Games in Singapore. In the final at the New National Stadium they beat South Vietnam 3-2 before 40,000 spectators.

But Burma were only fourth in the total games which included 16 other sports.

Outstanding for the Burmese side was Mya Kyaing who scored all three of his country's goals.

Bogota again

The Bogota story which concerned Bobby Moore before the start of the 1970 World Cup may not be dead after all. A Colombian High Court Prosecutor has called for the case, in which Moore was accused of stealing a gold bracelet valued at near opened.

A criminal c November th grounds for Bogota High Senor Enriqu said that there proceedings ag all the availabl brought forwa

The request was in accord procedure and Moore would face a new tri

IRE SW

Northern Ire will not play qualifying matc The Bulgarians Ireland becaus troubles there agreed to mee instead.

Ireland hav Cyprus and P as their "hom tournament.

There are 5 in French First football. The country are Yu 15 there, one m Argentina.

The rest are three from Uru Poland, Germa eroons, Sweder guay, while Rur Switzerland, Is ville have one a

In Spain the still going up Foreign Legion are from Argen total.

Paul Van lecht and Be forward cele birthday early can look back has seen him caps.

Soccer action from an unusual part of the globe featuring three players of the Cuba national side, goalkeeper Bennett and defenders Valenzuela and Sotomayor.

.WORLD SOCCER DIARY...

ruyff's old...Moore l's worries

ly £500, to be re-

ot judge ruled last at there were no proceedings but a Court prosecutor, Romero Rincon, were defects in the ainst Moore and not e evidence had been d

to reopen the case ance with routine did not imply that mmediately have to

LAND TCH

land and Bulgaria their World Cup n in Belfast after all. declined to play in of the continued and the Irish F.A. them in Sheffield

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foreigners playing and Second Division highest from one goslavians who have or than come from

ly spread with gray, two each from ny, Holland, Cam- n, Mali and Para- nania, Luxembourg, eal, Congo Brazza- pace.

number is 59 and it seems. Of their the highest number tina—nearly half the

Hans the Ander- lecht international beats his 30th in October and on a career which win more than 70

He was playing for Anderlecht as a 16-year-old and has been a regular member of the side ever since.

Birch banned

IT'S not all full of Eastern promise, this Turkish football scene. Ask World Soccer correspondent Brian Birch, who also manages to combine this exacting task with the job of trainer to the country's number one football team Galatasaray.

Last season they won the League and Cup and it was their third championship win on the trot. But success produces jealously and that means trouble.

The arch rivals of Turkish football are Galatasaray and Fenerbahce. And the season traditionally begins with a game between these two for charity. Naturally there is little of that on the field between the teams.

Anyway during the game one of the linesmen flagged a Fenerbahce forward offside but his decision was ignored by the referee. The player then threw himself down in the penalty area and the referee awarded a penalty.

A worthy picture of OFK Belgrade. Top, left to right: Zec, Soskic (manager/trainer), Lukic. Middle: Turudija, Basic, Santrac, Bozovic. Bottom: Vukasinovic, Kresic, Mitrovic, Mesanovic, Djujic. Crouching: Borota.

The crowd of 50,000 shouted for and against according to their support and eventually fighting broke out. Galatasaray were 2-0 down as a result of the penalty kick but fought back to draw level before the final whistle went.

At the end of the game Birch went up to the linesman who repeated that he had flagged the forward offside prior to the penalty incident. He then approached the referee and asked him why he had not consulted the man with the flag. The man in the middle refused to comment and gestured to Birch to go away.

And for this action Birch has been suspended for two months from sitting on the bench and must watch matches from a seat in the stand.

By an odd coincidence the suspension just takes in the important League game between Galatasary and . . . you've guessed it, Fenerbahce!

Top league scorer in Poland last year, Gregorcz Lato.

POLAND WORRY

Apart from the injury to Lubanski, the Poles are worrying over the fitness of centre back Jerzy Gorgon and midfield player Jerzy Kraska.

But their recent results, without all three players, indicate that they may be running into form which will allow one of the trio to be absent and not missed.

After a particularly successful tour of North America they returned to beat Bulgaria 2-0 away and then had a canter against the West German *Bundesliga* outfit MSV Duisburg and won 5-0 with a largely experimental side.

Included in this game was out of form midfield player Kazimierz Deyna who celebrated with three of the goals and newcomer Chojacki hit the other two.

And in addition the Polish Under-23 side scored a convincing 3-2 win over the West Germans. Last season's top League scorer Gregorcz Lato who hit 13 goals for Stal Mielec the champions, scored one of the goals. The performance was all the more impressive since the Poles were two down in half an hour, before Szarmach and Bulzacki, both of whom have full caps equalised, Lato had the winner four minutes from the end.

PERSONAL OPINION

by LESLIE VERNON

Football is becoming a television programme

A RECENTLY published, and in every sense deplorable book, which doesn't deserve the merest publicity, (you are at liberty to guess the title), states that what football needs is journalists like Marjorie Proops. Miss Proops is a "Heartbreak" column writer, whose claim to fame and prominence is an unusually long cigarette-holder, and an endless stream of instantly forgettable remarks on every imaginable subject under the sun.

If we would write about the game as Marjorie writes about broken marriages, the back pages of our dailies would be just as colourless and innocuous as their feature sections. But, of course, Miss Proops is in no way to be blamed for the utterances made on her behalf by an ex-P.R.O. of a Second Division club. She is a lady of such tact that she wouldn't even knock "Jack the Ripper", and in the "Sunday Mirror" she has just done a great public relations job for football.

Adoring

Gimmicky it might have been, but Miss Proops' account of the Arsenal v. Manchester Utd. match was full of adoring adjectives. It was "great fun" (not for Tommy Docherty I imagine) and every wife, girl-friend, concubine etc. should in future accompany her male addict to football matches.

In conclusion, Marge breathlessly confessed that she often turns down invitations to the most delectable parties because she doesn't want to miss "Match of the Day".

This is the rub and the nub of my argument. Others should actually go to a match, but the advocate herself is willing to watch it only on television. The tragedy is that football in this country is slowly becoming a T.V. programme instead of a spectator sport, which ought to be viewed without the help of the all-seeing cameras.

Hence the pre-season hysteria concerning the line-up of commentators on the various channels. Jimmy Hill's move to the B.B.C. got more column inches in the papers than the Cruyff transfer to Barcelona. We were told one sunny morning that "today, John Bromley and Brian Moore will drive up to the Midlands to meet Brian Clough".

A summit conference of such enormous importance naturally kept the whole country on tenterhooks, and most people were pleased that the eminently watchable Mr. Clough signed for London Weekend.

I don't harbour any feeling of animosity towards the above-mentioned colleagues who work in television—on the contrary! But the power of the media terrifies me. While roughly 600,000 people watch football weekly in England, close on 8 million switch on "Match of the Day", and nearly as many are glued to the screen for "The Big Match".

No wonder that the armchair fans are genuinely concerned with the individuals who are going to dish out ready-made opinions for them, and the loss of Jimmy Hill would be just as serious a blow to the nation's spiritual wellbeing as the demise of "Ironside", "Alf Garnett" or the all male "Steptoe" family.

Miss Proops is quite right. LIVE FOOTBALL IS FUN, THE GREATEST ENTERTAINMENT IN THE WORLD. Let us watch the ersatz highlights and listen to the pundits by all means, but don't kill the game itself by regarding it as merely part of our daily diet of the moving wall-paper in the corner of the sitting-room.

Improved

As for the programmes themselves, the B.B.C's output has improved a great deal, due to the authoritative presence of Hill. Several linkmen give the impression that they are merely reading results from a piece of paper that someone else put in front of them.

Jimmy is a man of football, and knows exactly what he is talking about. I am not crazy about the editorial idea of asking commentators what they thought about their own performance. It reminds me of those Stalinist trials when the accused seemed to be happy and willing to confess his crime and deviation from the party line.

"The Big Match" doesn't seem to know just yet where they are going. The expertise of Brian Moore shines through, but poor old mixed-up Malcolm Allison has lost (temporarily I hope) his credibility, and it is obviously a handicap that he hasn't actually seen the game he is supposed to analyse.

Clough is good, very good, and will get even better when he appreciates that he was employed because of his deep knowledge of the game, and not merely to grab headlines by being "frank and honest" about other managers and players. Go to your Saturday night parties Miss Proops—after you have been to a football match in the afternoon!

I sprained my ankle the other day during a vigorous game of tennis, (mixed doubles, lost 6—2, 6—1—my wife played badly), and my attention was drawn to a fairly new form of treatment. The osteopath used a "diapulse" machine, apparently the same one which kept Kodes in the hunt for the Wimbledon title.

The Czech champion sustained a bad injury in the quarter-finals, was treated immediately, then played five long sets against Taylor, and the Final v. Metreveli without any discomfort. I was told that diapulse cures football injuries in half the time than any other method, and it is absolutely safe.

Few

George Wright, the Stoke physiotherapist, used it when he was at the Arsenal during the "double year", and they had very few absentees during that memorable season.

The "commercial" over, I leave you with this gem from the London Evening Standard (31.8.73). Gordon Jago, the Q.P.R. manager said before the Manchester U. match. "We will be playing in front of the biggest crowd for many a day, and I hope my players will be less tight than they have been so far."

Ah, well, a good stiff drink steadies the nerves—or perhaps he meant up-tight?

Analysis by —

The sort of football Leeds United have been dishing up this year is guaranteed to increase attendances. Here Mick Jones (on ground), Norman Hunter (6) and Eddie Gray clear a Birmingham attack.

Goals and Games...

—JACK ROLLIN

DURING THE LAST decade one of the chief causes of falling attendances around the world has been laid at the feet of defensive football.

Certainly, statistics can be produced to prove that there has been a drop in goalscoring and a similar set of figures will show that crowds have diminished at the same time. The two may be coincidental but it is unlikely that they are not related.

In Europe last season among the leading countries the most goals per match were recorded in West Germany's Bundesliga, where the average was 3.41 per match. Luxembourg had more with 3.76, but even the Grand Duchy itself would not accede to the view that it was one of the Continent's giants of the game.

Yet in Germany the average gate fell to 16,000, which was quite the worst in the history of the super-League there. One of the reasons for the low figure was the Munich Olympics of 1972 which drifted over into the start of the season and people were not prepared for football. And throughout the history of the game, tradition has been responsible along with habit for determining the mood of spectators in attending matches.

But the German problem has been affected by the Bundesliga corruption scandals of the last couple of years. Ten years ago the bribery revelations in England had an adverse effect on attendances, too, before they recovered temporarily at least.

The current season in West Germany has got off to a fine start. Both goals and gates are up on the corresponding period last season. After 54 matches the total number of goals scored has been 198 for an average of 3.66, and there has been a similar rise in attendances with a nett gain of 435,000 over the start of 1972-73.

Bribery

Of course, the Germans must now be feeling that the bribery and corruption stories are becoming a bore and forgettable and more important the World Cup Finals are stimulating interest in the game. This did not happen in England before 1966 which was still suffering a little from the bribery.

But in England attendances rose the season after the World Cup triumph from 27,206,960 to 28,902,596 for the entire Football League.

Last season the attendances fell to their lowest during the post-war period totalling 25,648,442. At the same time goalscoring per match averaged out at 2.48 for the four divisions and 2.50 for the First Division alone.

The former figure equalled the 1923-24 average which in itself was an all-time low according to the 1972-73 Official Footabll League Year Book.

In 1961-62 the number of goals per match in the Football League was 3.34. Attendances aggregated 27,979,902 that season. But it would be wrong to draw any conclusions from these figures because in 1967-68 the crowds had risen to 30,107,298, the highest since 1959-60 season!

The start of the 1973-74 season has seen a small increase in the number of spectators attending Football League matches. It is by no means certain that England will qualify for the finals of the World Cup in Munich next year. If England fail to reach the last 16 there could be a turn towards apathy at League grounds, but this is merely conjecture. In 1962 we qualified for the finals in Chile but the gates went up in League games the following season. In 1966 we won and they went up; in 1970 we lost in Mexico and they went down. Perhaps the last two World Cup competitions have been closer to home in terms of coverage on television, so perhaps it has had a more lasting effect.

Threat

Whatever happens to England in the vital World Cup match with Poland there is every reason to hope that crowds will show an increase at the end of the term. The increased promotion opportunities and with them the greater threat of relegation are certain to keep interest in the divisions alive for longer for more clubs.

And it can also mean that if the clubs with the bigger draw potential as far as crowds are concerned do well, this will help swell overall attendances.

There is no reason to speculate that if relegation issues are increased there will be a trend towards more defensive football. For clubs in the lower reaches goal average not only points can play their part and since the majority of clubs in the depths have an inferior goal average, it has to be improved with goals. And remember that in 1957-58 when half of the clubs of the old Third Division Southern and Northern Sections were going to be relegated to form a Fourth Division, the overall crowds for the season went up from 32,744,405 to 33,562,208.

Football has to concern itself with enormous counter-attractions these days so there is no hope of gaining back the crowds who watched the game in the years immediately following the war.

But comfort and increased seating will get rid of the hooligan element and start to bring back those who are currently put off by unruly elements. And there is no reason to suppose that seeing a few more goals scored will stop them returning either.

Country comes before clubs...

THE absence of 33 players from their clubs preparing for the World Cup—and the continuing sales of players to foreign clubs—has lowered the standard of Argentine First Division games and is keeping spectators away, but it has not yet made any appreciable difference to leading positions. It's almost like a car race with the danger flag up after an accident when participants are asked to slow down and hold their positions.

The clubs have done just that. With their best players away, they have all slowed down and held their positions.

Nevertheless, it is surprising that South American club champions, Independiente, couldn't take advantage of the fact that only one of their players (Galvan) was called up for national team duty and improve on their fourth place. But there's discontent in the team over unpaid wages and now their coach, Humberto Maschio, who is also owed about 3,000 dollars, has been suspended for a month by the club board which has declined to give the reason.

Huracan, leaders since the start of the season, now without their best players and leading scorers, have dropped their scoring rate and are not playing so well, but with a six-point lead and seven games to go, they are a safe bet to win their first professional soccer title.

Training

Oscar Mas, who was sold by River Plate to Real Madrid almost two months ago, still tops the scorers table with 17 goals, but of course other leading scorers in the table are now also out of the fray while training with the national team. Mas is followed by Curioni (Boca) and Peña (Estudiantes) with 14 goals each.

Placings:
1 Huracan 40 pts., 2 River Plate 34, 3 Boca Juniors (one game less than leaders) 33, 4 Independiente 32, 5 San Lorenzo 29, 6 Rosario Central 27, 7 Velez Sarsfield, Argentinos Juniors, Atlanta 26, 10 Estudiantes de La Plata, Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata, Racing Club 23, 13 Chacarita Juniors 22, 14 Colon de Santa Fe, Newell's Old Boys de Rosario 20, 16 FC Oeste, All Boys 13.

ELSEWHERE IN SOUTH AMERICA

English lose proud claim

THE English First Division has lost its proud claim of being the best supported league in Europe. Last season, the Italian Serie A produced a record average attendance of 32,716 per match. Despite a substantial increase in admission charges, which forced the average price to nearly £2 (!) a head, bigger than ever crowds of "tifosi" have flocked to see championship games—and this in a country with the lowest goals-per-match ratio in Europe! Gate receipts, too, rose here by a full 20 per cent!

By way of comparison, here are the average gates in the Italian First Division (called Serie A) for the past seven years.

1966-67—23,818
1967-68—26,507
1968-69—29,410
1969-70—30,134
1970-71—30,805
1971-72—29,577
1972-73—32,716

These figures show that attendances in Italy have been steadily rising except for the 1971-72 season. Last year's record total of 7,853,731 spectators represents an increase of 10 per cent on the corresponding period of the previous term. Most impressive, too, is the figure of 3,118,650 season ticket holders! The "champions" of popularity are Naples (SS Napoli), who alone sold 55,000 season tickets!

SOUTH AMERICAN ROUND-UP

by ERIC WEIL

PARAGUAY

PARAGUAY (First Division—after 23 games, 4 to go): 1 Cerro Porteno 35 pts., 2 Libertad 30, 3 Olimpia 29, 4 Guarani 25' 5 Nacional 23, 6 Sol de America 23, 7 Sportivo Luqueño, River Plate 19, 9 General Caballero 15, 10 Rubio Nu 11.

PERU

PERU (First Division—after 15 games): 1 Atletico Chalaco 22 pts., 2 Universitario 21, 3 Sport Boys 19, 4 Municipal, Alianza Lima, Sporting Cristal, Cienciano 18, 8 Melgar, Juan Aurich, Defensor Lima 16, 11 Huracan 15, 12 Union Tuman, CNI 13, 14 Atletico Grau 12, 15 SIMA, Leon de Huanuco 10, 17 Torino 9, 18 Jose Galvez 3.

URUGUAY

URUGUAY — Montevideo Cup final: Nacional 2, Peñarol 1.

BRAZIL

BRAZIL — Carioca League — Second Round final placings (22/7): 1 Fluminense, Vasco da Gama 11 pts., 3 Flamengo 9, 4 America 8, 5 Botafogo 7, 6 Bonsucesso 4, 7 Olaria 3, 8 Bangu 2. **Third Round standings:**—Group A — Vasco da Gama 8 pts., America 3, Flamengo and Bangu 2. Group B—Fluminense and Botafogo 5, Olaria 2, Bonsucesso 1.

San Paulo League: 1 Portuguesa 13 pts., 2 Juventus, Corinthians 12, 4 Guarani 11, 5 Santos 9, 6 Palmeiras, America, Ponte Preta 8, 9 San Paulo 6, 10 Botafogo 5, 11 Ferroviaria 4, 12 Sao Bento 3.

COLOMBIA

COLOMBIA — First Division (Final round): 1 Deportivo Cali 6 pts., 2 Nacional, America de Cali, Millionarios de Bogotá 5, 5 Independiente Santa Fe, Junior, Medellin, Deportivo Quindio, 9 Tolima 3, 10 Union Magdalena, Deportivo Pereira, Bucaramaranga 2, 13 Caldas 0. (Deportivo Cucuta disbanded due to financial difficulties).

Semenewicz (Independiente) falls over Atlanta goalkeeper Laino in an Argentine First Division match. Independiente's Balbuena ans Bertoni (11) are behind.

CHILE — BY A SHORT HEAD

WORLD CUP report from ERIC WEIL

BY the time you read this the first leg of the Chile-Soviet Russia play-off for a place in next year's World Cup finals in Germany will have been played in Moscow, but whatever the result, nobody can take it away from the Chileans that they won South American Qualifying Group 3 magnificently in the end—which, in previous World Cup competitions would have been enough to gain them a place in the finals.

In one of the best international matches seen here for a long time they beat Peru—who were slight pre-match favourites—by 2-1 in the play-off in Montevideo. Earlier each country had beaten the other 2-0 at home in group matches.

Chile, playing good soccer as a team, were in better physical shape, showed more tenacity and fighting spirit at the right time—after going 1-0 behind—and took good advantage of Peru's few mistakes. What made their victory so praiseworthy was that Peru played a good game also and Chile were made to fight all the way.

Fielding seven men who played in the World Cup finals in Mexico, Peru took the upper hand after early Chile pressure, followed by a battle for mid-field which was eventually resolved in favour of Chile.

Peru played a 4-2-4 formation against Chile's 4-3-3 who used defender Quintano as a sweeper. He and goalie Olivares saved Chile on several occasions during the early stages, but finally Peru took a deserved lead through Bailetti three minutes from half-time.

But Chile fought back immediately and during time added on for stoppages Valdez equalised for Chile with a precision free-kick to make it 1-1 at half-time.

Valdez, as usual Chile's organiser in chief, came into his own in the second half and Chile hit the crossbar twice before Reinoso headed in the winner after 12 minutes.

Peru then fought back with nervous and unco-ordinated attacks as time ran out, but in spite of pulling players back into defence and goalkeeper Olivares having to make several difficult saves, Chile never seemed to lose control of the match.

(*Match statistics under Classified results*).

Russian refs clamp down

THE REFEREE'S COMMITTEE of the F.A. is clamping down hard. Rudakov, the Dynamo Kiev star goalkeeper, has been made an example and lost his international place. Not only are players being disciplined but referees are being demoted too. Several Division One and Two officials have been regraded at lower levels for failing to maintain discipline and the Schachtjor Donezk-Zarja Vorochilovgrad Cup game—won by Schachtjor 3-1—has been highlighted. Half the players have been suspended, the captains have lost their armbands and both managers severely censured. In addition, referee Cernikov, according to the F.A., "will not be whistling for a long, long time".

Ararat (Jerevan) have won their way through to the Cup Final, beating Dnepr 1-0 and 1-0 in the semi-finals. Now they wait for the outcome of the second leg between Dynamo Kiev and Dynamo Moscow in the other semi-final. The first leg in Kiev was drawn 1-1.

Ararat and team-manager Nikita Simonian will be delighted to have reached the Cup Final for the first time but they have frittered away a clear five-point lead in the League and been overhauled by Dynamo Kiev. For the latter, Blokhin, Kolotov and Muntjan have all been scoring regularly while Ararat fluffed two really critical games. Crashing 3-0 to relegation threatened Karpaty Lvov, Ararat were behind in the second minute and never really in the game.

Then away to bottom of the table ASK Rostov they drew 2-2, before losing 5-4 on penalties. Result: no point. International centre-forward Andriassian scored both the Ararat goals in normal time but missed the chance of a hat-trick and what could have been a winning goal (worth two points) when he failed from the penalty spot in the first half.

Ararat are still in with a chance with eight games left. Though beaten by the new leaders Dynamo Kiev 3-1 in Kiev they are a point behind with a game in hand. Dynamo Moscow's new boy wonder Anatolij Kojemiakhin still leads the scorers with 12 goals.

Attendance boost for East Germany

1st FC Lokomotive's veteran forward, Henning Frenzel, outstrips a defender.

HOPES OF A first-ever qualification for the World Cup appear to have boosted interest in watching football despite live television coverage. 22,000 saw Rot Weiss Erfurt who narrowly escaped relegation last season, at home to FC Carl Zeiss (Jena) but Eberhard Vogel and Peter Ducke each scored a goal in Zeiss' 3-0 win.

Sachsenring Zwickau are the early pace-makers with a 2-0 home win over Hansa Rostock, inspired by a great performance in goal by their international star Jurgen Croy, now fully fit again. They followed that with a 3-0 win away at Erfurt and, league leaders to the surprise of their supporters, they attracted 20,000 for the visit of Carl Zeiss. Vogel beat Croy once but Zwickau won 2-1.

Mood

The promoted teams, Energie Cottbus and Stahl Riesa, have begun carefully. Cottbus have drawn all three games, while Stahl have drawn two—visiting champions Dynamo Dresden when Kreische & Co. were in the right mood and getting hammered 5-2. Hans Jurgen Kreische has scored in each of the three opening games but defensive problems have pegged Dynamo back, and their other two games have been drawn. However, 52,000 have seen Dynamo's first two home games which augurs well.

Apart from Energie and Dynamo Dresden the only unbeaten teams after three games are Sachsenring Zwickau (maximum points) with Croy their only real star and FC Karl Marx Stadt, a team with no name players but five points.

The best gate so far . . . as usual was for the Leipzig derby, 35,000 paying at the Central Stadium to see 1st FC Lokomotive beat Chemie 2-0. Henning Frenzel, Lokomotive's veteran striker now playing in midfield, is playing well and chipping in vital goals.

Great start for Austria's 'new' club

THERE ARE NOW fewer clubs than ever in Wien with the summer fusion of FK Austria—masters of the 1950's—with Wiener AC. The new club made a great start after struggling to keep clear of relegation last season and were at one time so desperate they engaged 73-year-old Bela Guttmann to direct them.

On the opening day, with neighbours SC Rapid the "odd" team out of 17 not playing, FK Austria were at home to Cup and League double winners "Swarowski" Wacker Innsbruck. A goal down early on—scored by West German centre forward Bobby Breuer, Austria came back with second-half goals from Uruguayan right-winger Martinez, and captain Fiala who got the winner (2-1) with a penalty.

Rated

Also on the opening day, newly promoted Radentheim gave a hint of what was to come when they drew 0-0 with Linz ASK, one of the star teams of last season. Radentheim, playing very tightly, their star was newly signed goalkeeper Muftic, a Yugoslav from FC Sarajevo and now rated the best 'keeper in Austria.

Radentheim have carried on the same way—played four, drawn four and goals one against one. It may not be attractive but it's guaranteed to avoid relegation. No doubt feeling the absence of international left-winger Kurt Jara, transferred to Valencia, Swarowski had to wait until their third match for a win. However, at home to lowly Eisenstadt, at the time without a point and even without a goal, they won 3-1.

Crashed

Keeping Eisenstadt company at the bottom are another famous old club First Vienna. Still hanging on, they got their first goal of the campaign in the third game but crashed 1-4 away to FK Austria and after four games have a goals tally of one to 12.

The big surprise is the performances of Sturm "Durisol" Graz who would have been relegated last season if the FA had as usual sent three down instead of two. With the same players and the same manager Sturm have set off with five straight wins to lead the field by three clear points.

Austria's international winger, Kurt Jara.

BRAVE DOOLEY DESERVES SUCCESS

says Eric Thornton

DEREK Dooley, the soccerman who has never admitted defeat, is having yet another go. Which is a fine thing for the game in general, and Sheffield Wednesday in particular.

Especially so in a period when so many are expending so much energy sniping at almost everything in sight, and constantly bawling they've been robbed when something doesn't quite suit them.

It's good to know that D-D will again have charge of his old outfit. For this scoring idol who followed in the footsteps of such greats as Dixie Dean, Tommy Lawton, and Nat Lofthouse two decades ago, not only possesses the necessary know-how, but, additionally, an abundance of courage accumulated while fighting against tremendous adversity.

It may be that outside Yorkshire's famous City of Steel, the name won't always ring a bell with teenagers who are hazy about those great days of the golden goals of the fifties, when 'keepers screamed to the high Heavens for more protection. But their fathers will remember.

Let's think back for a moment. Yes, and to the remarkable manner in which he burst into the national scene, and, after a fairly quiet debut, gradually proceeded to master defences, and hit 46 of the best in a mere thirty League games.

Admittedly, they were obtained against Second Division set-ups, though it is a fact that such clubs as Everton, West Ham, Leicester City and Southampton were in the lower circle, those days. But, anyway, they took the delighted Owls back into the First.

That was the position when the party motored along The Snake and over The Pennines and into The Fylde for a Saty game with Preston.

Sheffield Wednesday manager Derek Dooley.

Cheers

The well built, happy boy with the blazing mop of red hair felt good once more when travelling supporters singled him out for special, warming cheers as the boys emerged from the Deepdale dressing rooms.

Again, on the crowded terraces and stands, they yelled enthusiastically, and in rough chorus: "Doo-ley, Doo-ley, Doo-ley". Then everybody finally settled back comfortably to await the goals. But they never arrived. At least, not for the Hillsborough men. Because their hero was struck down—on St Valentine's Day February 14, 1953.

A broken leg caused him to be carried off. It defied medical repairing efforts, and had to be amputated. It meant the end of a wonderful playing career.

Sympathetic messages arrived from almost everywhere while a new future was being planned. It became necessary to live with an artificial limb. Yet he managed first to gain an executive position with a bakery firm, and later became money-raising organiser for the club.

Then, almost three years ago, the folk who matter moved him into the hot seat, simultaneously handing over a brief for promotion which indicated a spring clean and the building of a new and better image.

Time is the enemy. As it always is in this busy industrial complex which is split right down the middle by divided soccer loyalties. Sheffield United are walking proud, just now, because they are *up* in the First Division, while their old rivals on the other side of the town are *down* in the Second.

It's an unbearable position for every Wednesday enthusiast. One glance at the weekly League tables puts them off their food. But they believe that everything will come right in time through *DOO-LEY*!

Spain's open door signings...

IN all fifty-nine foreigners have been signed by Spain. Twenty-nine in the First Division and thirty in the Second. The majority being from the Argentine.

Forty-eight of them can play officially for their new clubs, but CRUYFF and ten others still haven't their licences.

Just one hour before the deadline, permission was given for KURT JARA to join Valencia. The twenty-two-year-old Austrian was transferred for half a million dollars, a record in Austria, on the condition that he plays six international games a year for Austria.

Some of the foreigners got off to a very bad start—in the first match of the season NETZER (Real Madrid) missed a penalty and lost a point for his new club and DORIA (Gijon) scored . . . in his own goal!

KEITA did score two beautiful goals for Valencia and several others put on a good show, but nothing very spectacular has happened up to now.

Peruvian international Hugo Sotil.

29 in FIRST DIVISION

	Player	*Nationality*	*Previous Club*
REAL	Saturnino Arrúa	Paraguayan	Cerro Porteño
ZARAGOZA	Juan C. Blanco	Uruguayan	Club Nacional
ATLETICO	Ruben Hugo Ayala	Argentinian	San Lorenzo de Almagro
MADRID	Ramon Armando Heredia	Argentinian	San Lorenzo de Almagro
LAS	Daniel Carnevali	Argentinian	Chacarita Juniors
PALMAS	Pedro A. Verde	Argentinian	Estudiantes
RACING	Rafael D. Zubiria	Argentinian	Argentinos Juniors
SANTANDER	Joaquin P. Martinez	Argentinian	River Plate
REAL OVIEDO	Milovan Djoric	Yugoslavian	Estrella Roja
SPORTING	Angel A. Landucci	Argentinian	Rosario Central
GIJON	Victor H. Doria	Argentinian	San Lorenzo de Almagro
CASTELLON	Henri Dumat	French	Troyes Aube
GRANADA	Juan M. Echecopar	Argentian	Estudiantes
	J. Montero Castillo	Uruguayan	Independiente
BARCELONA	Hugo Sotil	Peruvian	C.D. Municipal
	Johan Cruyff	Dutch	A.C. Ajax
ELCHE	Franz Hiller	German	München 1860
	Juan C. Heredia	Argentinian	Porto F.C.
REAL	Oscar Tomas Mas	Argentinian	River Plate
MADRID	Günter Netzer	German	Borussia Mon.
REAL	Juan A. Taverna	Argentinian	C.D. Banfield
MURCIA	Crispin R. Versa	Paraguayan	Olimpia Asunción
CELTA	Juan C. Aparicio	Uruguayan	Huracán Buceo
	Luis A. Aguerre	Uruguayan	Huracán Buceo
VALENCIA	Salif Keita	African	Olympique Marsella
	Kurt Jara	Austrian	Innsbruck
ESPANOL	Roberto Cino	Paraguayan	Cerro Porteño
	César O. Aquino	Paraguayan	Cerro Porteño
MALAGA	Carlos A. Guerini	Argentinian	Boca Juniors

30 in SECOND DIVISION

	Player	*Nationality*	*Previous Club*
CORDOBA	Jorge E. Dominichi	Argentinian	River Plate
	Daniel G. Onega	Argentinian	River Plate
SEVILLA	Victor R. Esparrago	Uruguayan	Nacional
	Alhaji Momodo	African	Nykbing
TENERIFE	Pedro Kraus	Uruguayan	Danubio F.C.
	Angel Ferreira	Mexican	C. Atlas
HERCULES	Antal Nagy	(Stateless)	Olympique Marsella
	Ruben Omar Rey	Uruguayan	Danubio F.C.
RAYO	Oscar Abellan	Argentinian	Dep. Concepción
VALLECANO	Juan F. Gordo	Argentinian	C.D. Italiano
CADIZ	Juan J. Valiente	Argentinian	C.D. León
	Fernando Carvello	Chilian	Unión Española
SAN	Helmut Roth	German	Chiasso
ANDRES	Raul Marcos Longhi	Argentinian	Kimberley
VALLADOLID	Alfredo Amarillo	Uruguayan	Nacional
	Carlos A. Gonçalves	Brasilian	Lorient
REAL	Jorge Bran	Hondurasian	Olympia
MALLORCA	Jorge Urquia	Hondurasian	Olympia
BURGOS	Néstor Rodriguez	Argentinian	C.A. San Telmo
	Ademar Dos Santos	Brasilian	Madureira
TARRAGONA	Oswaldo Baptista	Brasilian	Racing Gent
LEVANTE	Carlos H. Caszely	Chilian	Colo Colo
SALAMANCA	Gabriel Galleguillos	Chilian	Dep. Concepción
SABADELL	Nebajsa Djordjevic	Yugoslavian	F.C. Beograd
ORENSE	Joao F. Fonseca	Portuguese	C.F. Leixoes
	José O. Pasternak	Argentinian	Toannina
LINARES C.F.	Roberto Abrussezze	Portuguese	C.F. Nazaret
BETIS	Jorge Olmedo	Argentinian	A.D. Cali
	Juan C. Mameli	Argentinian	Nacional
CORUNA	Guillermo Muñoz	Chilian	S. Wanderers

LUIGI RIVA

answers questions posed by Gregory Tesser

QUESTION: Your career has been full of many ups-and-downs—after having been selected for the 1966 World Cup squad, you were left out at the last moment. And despite two severe leg injuries in 1967 and in 1970, you have fought your way back to the national side. Today you are idolised throughout Italy, and only recently Cagliari were offered the huge sum of 400 million lire plus 4 players (Bettega, Cuccureddu, Gentile and Mussiello) by Juventus for your services. What was your reaction when you heard the news?

RIVA: If this transfer had taken place, I would have refused to go. To be worthy of such a fantastic transfer fee, I would have had to score at least four goals every Sunday—an unbearable burden for anyone to carry. I would have been unable to play football, and I would have lost my love for the game.

After the 1974 World Cup, Italy will re-open her doors to foreign players. What are your feelings about this?

I am all for it. By coming they would settle the transfer market, and the prices would drop to a more normal level. But I think the flow of foreign players should be such that a club could only sign one. Men like Jairzinho and Netzer would be advantageous to any Italian club. Among other things they would influence the young players in the side. But more important than that, they are becoming a necessity as our most famous players are getting on.

At 29, you are now at your peak. Have you any plans for the future?

My love for football is greater now than it has ever been, and I would like to play for as long as Altafini, up till the age of 36, or even more. But to achieve my ambition, I need to feel free.

The whole region of Sardinia was together in opposing your transfer. Hundreds of threatening letters and telephone calls were received by Mr. Arrica, the club president, saying that if you left Cagliari you would be kidnapped and hidden in the Island's mountains. Did this situation influence Mr. Arrica at all in his final decision?

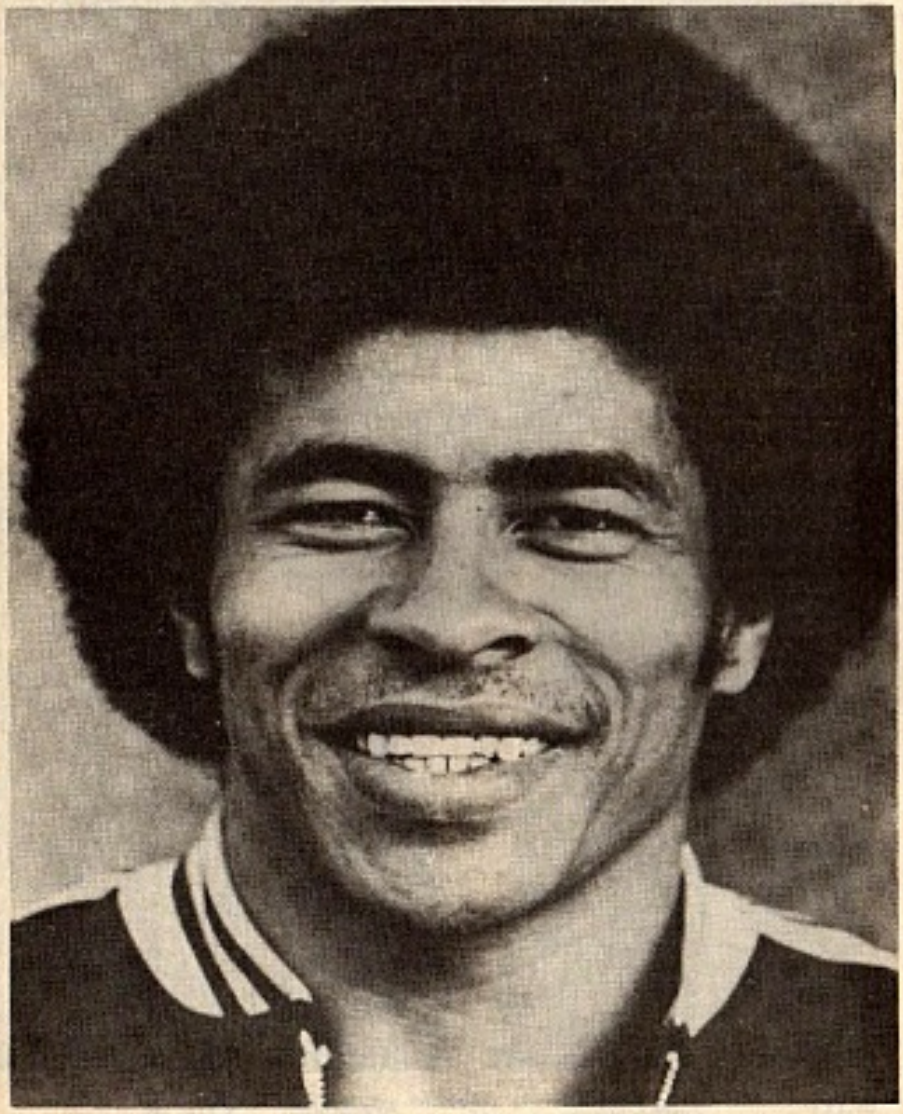
When I joined Cagliari from Legnano in 1963, and helped them gain promotion, I was promised that I would end my playing days at the club. But when the transfer negotiations began I was not informed of what was going on, and even three days before the transfer market closed I was still under the impression that I had to go to Juventus.

How do you feel now that the transfer negotiations are over?

Obviously I am relieved, but I still think that as I was directly concerned I should have had more say in the affair. After all I am not an object, but a man, and I like to be treated as such.

Prior to the Mexico World Cup, the Press built you up as a player who would win Italy the Cup. Yet their comments on your performances in Mexico were far from complimentary. Did this sense of comparative anti-climax affect you at all at the time?

Far from it. I felt I did quite well in Mexico, and was particularly pleased with my goals in the quarter and semi-finals. But on the other hand I am convinced I'll be a much better player in Munich now that I have garnered so much more international experience.



Jairzinho, a player who would be welcome in Italy.

by ALEX GORDON

Can Celtic's successful run be halted this season?

THE great race for Celtic's League crown is underway yet again. The question that must be asked right at the start is: Can one of the challengers end the Parkhead side's record run of eight successive titles? The answer does not come easily.

Jock Stein has drummed consistency into his Celtic side and although they haven't reached the spectacular heights of 1967 when they won the European Cup and EVERY domestic honour they are still without doubt one of the most powerful teams in world soccer.

Rangers have advanced tremendously under Jock Wallace and the present pool at Ibrox is probably the strongest squad they have had for a decade. There is experience and youth and a direct approach to the game that is refreshing. Hibs are the other main challengers for the title. They have already beaten Celtic and Rangers in the Drybrough Cup this season and Eddie Turnbull undoubtedly has a stronger pool at his disposal than he did last year.

Consistency over 34 games is what wins titles and this is what Celtic have had in the past eight seasons. They slipped alarmingly at one point last season when they were practically gifting points to the opposition in a most un-Celtic like manner, but they still had enough gathered at the start to make sure they would land the championship yet again.

At the start of last season Celtic had problems in goal, centre-back and in midfield. Ally Hunter, a superb bargain buy of £45,000 from Kilmarnock, and Stevie Murray, another top buy at £50,000 from Aberdeen, have taken care of the goalkeeper and midfield headaches, but the centre-back poser is still there.

Sweeper

Stein has already gone on record as saying he plans to play George Connelly at centre-half when skipper Billy McNeill finally calls it a day. There is also the plan to play former midfield play-maker Bobby Murdoch at sweeper. His experience would undoubtedly help Connelly, but there are many fans in Scotland who think Connelly should remain as sweeper.

It would seem a waste of talent restricting Connelly and he has never looked happy playing a purely defensive role. Remember the League Cup Final of three years ago when Partick Thistle crushed Celtic 4-1? Connelly was at centre-half that day and he looked completely out of position. A Connelly-Murdoch partnership at the back would possibly be the best ball-playing, artistic defensive twosome in the world, but it would hardly present problems of gigantic proportions for direct strikers. Neither Connelly nor Murdoch could claim to be the speediest players in the game.

The problem is a big one for Celtic. McNeill not only has been a splendidly consistent player over the past decade, but he has been a great and respected representative of the side. Alas, Billy has slowed up in recent years and a replacement must be found. Roddy McDonald, a signing from Highland League club Brora Rangers last season, has been playing in the reserves at pivot, but is he good enough for such an important, vital position? The answer must come soon.

Celtic have also made moves for strikers this season. The midfield looks good—one of the best in Europe—but their good work isn't always bringing the finishing touch up front. Dixie Deans has, as usual, made a slow start to the season and a team such as Celtic cannot afford to sacrifice players up front.

The two League Cup qualifying section matches between Celtic and Rangers were quite puzzling for the fans. The first one at Ibrox was won 2-1 by Celtic . . . after Rangers had had the bulk of the play. The return at Parkhead was even more baffling . . . not that the Rangers fans were complaining. Celtic scored first through Bobby Lennox and looked like winning the game out the park.

Two minutes after the goal Lennox hit the post and then claimed a goal when the ball bounced back to the frantic Peter McCloy. The ref waved play on. Rangers were struggling. Kenny Dalglish hit the woodwork, but the score remained 1-0 until after half-time. Celtic still looked clever after the interval . . . then Rangers scored through Alex MacDonald, six minutes later Derek Parlane hit the second for the Ibrox men, Jimmy Johnstone was sent off, Lennox hit the bar and Alfie Conn made the final score 3-1 for Rangers!

Lessons

The lessons from these two games are plain to see . . . the best side does NOT always win . . . the team who pops the ball in the net more times than their rivals DOES.

Hibs, the soccer artists from Easter Road, started the season well with impressive performances against Celtic and Rangers and convinced everyone that this really could be their year. But even Eddie Turnbull's men were soon on the receiving end of a shock result when they went to Boghead to play Dumbarton in a League Cup qualifying section game.

The Easter Road men had already qualified for the next round, but they could never have expected to be blitzed out of the park by the Dumbarton side that just escaped relegation last year. The final score was 4-1 making it a nightmare debut for Hibs' new goalkeeper Roddy McKenzie, signed for £10,000 from Airdrie on the morning of the match.

These three sides, though, are the teams who will probably make up 1, 2 and 3 in the final League table. The early season defeats should help them. They must realise that they can take nothing at all for granted. They have the talent, the flair and the power to make this a memorable League race and any side outside this trio are welcome to join in.

Display

There isn't an awful lot wrong with the Scottish game when you look at the sparkling parade of youngsters currently on display. Celtic have Brian McLaughlin, Danny McGrain and Kenny Dalglish; Rangers have Derek Johnstone, Derek Parlane and Alfie Conn; Hibs have Des Bremner, Tony Higgins, Derek Spalding, Bobby Smith and Iain Munro.

This, then, is a crucial season for Celtic. They faced their big test in Europe last season and they failed to impress when they went out to Ujpest Dozsa, of Hungary in the early stages. Now they must face up to this new challenge. Is their reign as Scottish champions for the past eight years at an end? I doubt if Celtic will surrender the title without a fight and it will take a brilliant side to take it from them.

I believe Celtic will rise to this occasion. I feel some critics have been far too harsh in their summing-up. Celtic don't win games as easily as they did in 1967, but this could be because the rest of the clubs of Scotland have followed the Parkhead lead and made our League more competitive and more professional.

HERRERA BACK AT
KOVACS SAGA CON

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

TALKING of managers; that ever interesting topic. Of Helenio Herrera and Bela Guttmann and Stefan Kovacs and Bobby Charlton. Coming up, perhaps, with no particular conclusions, but with ample grounds for continuing to believe that the subject is a tantalising mystery and perhaps must ever be so; however earnestly Stefan Kovacs assures us that the best managers will today prepare themselves for their tasks.

Herrera is back again as manager of Internazionale; an almost incomprehensible turn of events if you deal in such prosaic commodities as logic. Five years ago Inter defenestrated him; the details of his going were secondary, whether he slipped or whether he was pushed. Angelo Moratti, who had been his President and his protector through his many years in Milan, had resigned; it seemed almost inevitable that Herrera should go, too. The more so as throughout the season, Inter had surreptitiously been paying Manlio Scopigno, not long since sacked by Cagliari, as a shadow manager, in case at any moment they decided to get rid of Herrera.

Herrera went to Roma for a hundred million lire a year, a salary which had doubled by the time he was sacked by the President of the club; only to be recalled by "Gay" Anzalone, the new President, after a palace revolution.

Salary

No manager has done anything much at Roma for the last thirty years—and according to a spiteful Herrera, during the brief period that he was away from the club—that was only because their "manager" then was Mussolini. So he really did surprisingly well to stay in the saddle with that one small hiccough for five years, even if he was recalled by the club on a considerably smaller salary.

By the last stages of season 1972/3, however, Roma were in danger of relegation, most of the players wouldn't play for him, and the Roman Press, which had eaten greedily out of his hand for years, was savaging him with holy glee. Out he went, and the team staggered to safety.

Inter, meanwhile, sacked Gianni Invernizzi, whose friendly relations with the President were no longer enough to save him from the consequences of indifferent results. Who would take his place? There were all sorts of rumours; but suddenly who should it be but Herrera! The very manager, that is to say, who had promptly been abandoned as soon as the new President Ivanoe Fraizzoli had taken over the club in 1968.

Recalled

Had Herrera, in the meantime, accomplished anything of note with Roma it would still have been a little surprising if Inter had recalled him; with all the implications of their decision to do so. But he hadn't done well with Roma, he had been kicked out. Logic, as I say, flies out of the window.

Inter's decision seems to me to be comprehensible only in terms of superstition and magical thinking; the man who built their mighty team of the early 1960s can do once more what he did then.

Can he? I doubt it dreadfully. Characteristically, one of his first actions was to swear that he had no intention of transferring Mario Corso, whom everyone knew he disliked, while at the same time busily preparing to sell him to Genoa. It was a nasty little episode, full of mealy mouthed protests by Herrera and Inter that they had no intention of selling Corso, a great force at San Siro in midfield for a decade, that he certainly did not figure on the list of transferable players which Herrera had given the President.

Protested

Indeed, he was not sold during the week or so in which the mad transfer market at the Milan Hilton was at its peak. Herrera in the meantime disappeared discreetly on holiday. Then he came back and, while Inter still publicly protested that Corso was staying, the deal was made.

INTER-TINUES

Herrera also announced, with somewhat more reason to be believed, that he would turn Inter over to Total Football. This brought great scepticism from a former Inter manager, Annibale Frossi, who now pursues the somewhat easier career of technical critic on the *Corriere Della Sera*. He just hadn't the men with whom to do it, wrote Frossi.

To me, it was a sign of desperation and bankruptcy on Herrera's part, and there was a certain pathos about it—if you can persuade yourself to feel at all sorry for a man who has been salting such immense sums of tax free money away in Swiss banks for so many years. *Catenaccio* was the very corner stone of Herrera's successes with Inter, and if he is to abandon it now for something so radically different in concept and approach as Total Football, then it means he is cutting adrift as utterly as though he were a runaway balloon. A strange situation all round.

Dejected

Strange, too, is the return of Bela Guttmann to Portugal, at the age of 73. Late last season he was called up in desperation by the famous old Viennese club, Fussball Klub Austria, which was fighting relegation, and doubtless remembered that Guttmann had once done great things in Austria as a player. His greatest things, as we know, were achieved with Benfica—two consecutive European Cups among them—though the first time I met him he was justifiably a dejected man.

It was in a Roman restaurant in early 1955, when he had just been sacked by Milan while they were still at the top of the League. Old managers, it seems, never die. Good luck to Guttmann if he can still find lucrative employment in his seventies. There must be hope for football journalists yet.

Interviews

As for Kovacs, whose now you have him, now you don't saga with the French national team has caused some puzzlement this summer, gave a long and intriguing series of interviews to my friend and colleague Jacques Ferran, of *France Football*. After wading through it all, I am still no surer than ever of whether Kovacs is really a superbly prepared, marvellously versatile, tactically astute manager—or whether that Ajax team effectively managed itself.

In common with many a manager, not least the arrogant Herrera, who admits to "mistakes" with all the enthusiasm that he would jump from a moving train—Kovacs is the hero of his own tale, weaving his own plausible legend. He was plainly overshadowed by his brother, three times a Rumanian World Cup player, between 1930 and 1938, and there is ill concealed satisfaction when he relates that today, though his brother demands what managers are making of contemporary football, he himself does nothing but coach minor teams.

Bobby Charlton

Flourish

With heavy emphasis, Stefan Kovacs tells us that a great footballer's career is as nothing when it comes to management, that lesser players—like himself?—can flourish if only they prepare themselves thoroughly in every way. Even Mario Zagalo, he claims, told him that by comparison with Eastern European managers, the Brazilians were scarcely prepared at all. (Which leads one somewhat uncharitably to wonder why Brazilian teams have done so wonderfully well over the years, and Eastern European teams so surprisingly little.)

Bobby Charlton took a managerial course last summer, to make him ready, or readier, for managing Preston North End. Within the game, there was much astonishment that this rightly revered player should have chosen so difficult a first appointment; a foundering club with a poor record in relations with its recent managers.

Sheltering

I myself wished he had stayed for a few seasons at least under the sheltering wing of Manchester United and wonder whether his very kindness, decency and honesty are qualities which will allow him to succeed in the present jungle. I hope so. But he must not on any account be allowed to slide out of the game as the only English footballer who has matched his prestige in Europe did; Stanley Matthews.

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RWD LOOK NEW CHAMP

by JACK ROLLIN

THE most famous thing about Racing White, the Belgian sports club, is that they produced Eddy Merckx, the world's greatest cyclist. But at least they can also claim that the same Mr. Merckx is their number one supporter, who never fails to watch them whenever his commitments permit.

But there is a little more to the football section than being followed by the fastest man on two unassisted wheels. And quite a lot has been happening to them recently.

At the end of the season they combined with Daring Molenbeek, but then such fusions are not uncommon in their history. In fact they were originally formed in 1963 when Racing Club Brussels linked up with White Star. They used Racing's old home, the Fallon Stadion at Woluwe.

But crowds, or the lack of them, have been a constant problem for Racing White and since Daring had better support but a poorer team, it seemed logical that they should get together.

Neither team has had much success in recent years. In fact following each other as beaten Cup finalists is the nearest they have come to winning anything big; that was in 1969 when Racing White lost 2—0 to Lierse and the following season when Daring were beaten 6—1 by FC Bruges.

Racing Club had enjoyed their great years of success around the turn of the century. They won the League in 1897, and in four successive years from 1900 to 1903. Title number six came in 1908, but since then only a Cup success in 1912 has followed.

The year 1912 was also the start of Daring's successes. That year they won the title and repeated the triumph in 1914, 1921, 1936 and 1937.

So neither club has had much to shout about for nearly half a century. The fusion should strengthen them considerably. And it could lead to a strong challenge for the honours this season.

In 1972-73 Racing White finished third and drew 17 of their 30 matches. They had the best defence in the League which conceded only 19 goals. And all they need is to sharpen up in front of goal.

The new formation is known as RWD Molenbeek and the take-over virtually left the Racing White side intact with a couple of additions from Daring. Judging from the opening League game of the season, in which they drew 0—0 with FC Bruges at the champions home, the defence has lost none of its soundness but the question mark remains about the attack.

Last season the top scorer was the little Dutchman Eddy Koens, once of St. Trond, who was joint second in the list of League marksmen with 15 goals. Now 27, Koens was originally with STVV and PSV Eindhoven in his native country. And he started off the term well enough with four goals in the Cup win over Lauwe when RWD won 6—1.

The previous season the leading Racing White marksman had been Jacques Teugels, also 27 who was joint third highest scorer with 15 goals, too. He was previously with Anderlecht and Union St. Gilloise. The attack is completed with veteran 34-year-old Dutchman Gerard Bergholz who has played for MVV Maastrict, Feyenoord and Anderlecht and joined Racing White in 1970.

Remained

RWD have an experienced midfield trio comprised of Henri Depireux (29), Pierre Crombez (29) and Odilon Polleunis (30). Depireux was formerly with Standard and FC Liege and is an experienced international. Though he appeared likely to leave during the summer he has remained.

Crombez is one of the longest serving players with the club having been signed in 1966 from Racing Doornik. Polleunis cost a big fee this summer from St. Trond and was Footballer of the Year in Belgium five years ago.

Another experienced midfield player is Wietze Veenstra (27) signed in 1972 from FC Bruges but a Dutchman who made his name with PSV Eindhoven and Go Ahead.

At the back lies the great strength of course, with centre backs Kresten Bjerre (27) and Gerard Desanghere (25) holding

Gates surge—Trnava struggle

INTEREST IN THE game has been re-awakened and gates are up almost everywhere, though champions Spartak Trnava, apparently trying to rejuvenate their attack, are having teething troubles. After the first four matches (three away) they are kept off the bottom place by Nitra, largely through the performances of Josef Adamec their veteran international inside-forward. Adamec is apparently eager to regain a place in the World Cup side and scored the only goal in Trnava's 1-0 home win over Nitra.

The early pace-makers are two clubs with new managers—Dukla Praha, the only team unbeaten already with seven points from eight, now led by Josef Masopust and Slovan Bratislava a point behind, with former Under 23 team chief Jozef Venglos having taken over from Jan Hucko.

On the opening day Dukla won 2-1 away at Zilina with goals from Slany and Geleta (who took Masopust's place for club and country but was out of touch for months last season). Then they pulled a 15,000 crowd to see Nehoda and Slany score in the 2-0 win over Trnava, draw 0-0 at Pilzen and beat Nitra 2-1. Dukla's new star is 22-year-old right-winger Oldrich Rott.

Slovan got off to a bad start, losing at home to Cup holders Ostrava after leading at 1-0 and 2-1. Stopper Ludovit Zlocha got both the Slovan goals but Ostrava came back to win with two goals in the last five minutes. Slovan then won 3-2 away to VSS Kosice (two goals from left-winger Jan Capkovic) who got another in the next game at home to Brno which was won 3-1. Lawig Cvetler, the only Czech to win a Cup Winners Cup medal (with Standard) got the consolation goal for Brno in the last seconds.

Then came the big derby — newly promoted Inter Bratislava v. Slovan. A 20,000 crowd saw Petra help Inter to a 2-0 lead, goals from Medvid, Masnik and Pekarik though saw Slovan home.

FOR ION

the middle and Eric Dumont and Maurice Martens (26) taking care of the flanks.

Dumont is one of the survivors of the take-over from the Daring angle. A promising youngster he had only been signed in 1972 from Overijse. Left back Martens is an experienced international who came from Anderlecht. He can play in midfield and attack if necessary.

Bjerre the captain is a Dane and was signed by Racing White in 1970. He boasts varied previous experience with PSV Eindhoven, Houston Stars and Akademisk Copenhagen. Desanghere started his career with Daring oddly enough and was secured from Anderlecht.

In goal is, perhaps, the star of the show in Nico De Bree (29) another Dutchman who in his first season in 1972-73 conceded so few goals. He started his career with the Utrecht clubs HMS and Elinkwijk but was secured from NEC Nijmegen.

Odilon Polleunis, now with RWD in Belgium.

Cover

RWD have reasonable cover in several positions including defenders Schouppe and Garot, a Daring signing from Eupen in 1972, plus midfield player Vermeersch and striker Tuynerts.

The RWD President Jean Gooris was one of the spokesmen against the newly proposed professional league. He had no objection to the idea but was concerned because since it was not practical it could end in financial disaster. He voiced the opinion of many other clubs in Belgium.

The trainer Felix Week has built a sound reputation in the game as has technical director Jean Straetmans and since moving to Molenbeek there have been considerable improvements made at the ground.

A new stand has been erected, seating extended and an electric scoreboard set up just in case RWD score a few goals! The capacity of the ground has been increased to 32,000. The whole outlook of the club has changed let alone the personnel—only Crombez of the two clubs remains after four short years.

One major problem has been whether the Molenbeek locals would take to having a new team in place of their old one. If RWD can overcome any hostility of this nature, they could be well on the way towards success.

So perhaps it will not be too long before RWD Molenbeek can claim another champion which will be someone other than Eddy Merckx. And if they do he will be the first to congratulate them.

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Short summer break

Teofilio Cubillas who has joined Basel.

THE summer break for most players in Switzerland was so short, that by any stretch of imagination it could not be called a rest. The majority of clubs from the National League were engaged, almost immediately the championship had ended, in different tournaments. There was the Alpine Cup, the International Cup and the League Cup, throughout July, until the new battles for points were resumed on August 19. All signs point to yet another duel between the "big two", Basel and Zurich.

These clubs have in the past eight years annexed no fewer than 13 out of a possible total of 17 national trophies! Each club has nine internationals in their ranks. Small wonder that there appears to be no challenger capable of breaking the supremacy of this dominating twosome.

Both these giants of Swiss football seem even stronger this term, especially Basel, who have acquired the services of the brilliant Peruvian World Cup star Teofilio Cubillas, last year voted South America's "Player of the Year". With captain Karl Odermatt to conduct operations from midfield, and the German goalgetter Ottmar Hitzfeld, supported by a host of other international players the champions are well equipped to take the title for the third time in a row.

Their German manager Helmut Benthaus is confident that his team, who in the last five years have never finished below the runners-up position(!), will once again have a decisive influence on the destination of the coveted champions' crown.

Parted

Cup holders FC Zurich, led by another German "Timo" Konietzka, announced a new tactical plan — an attacking 4-4-2! Zurich parted company with their redoubtable international centre forward Fritz Kunzli, who has joined Winterthur, as well as Brunnenmeier, who got into trouble with the law, and has now returned to Germany.

In their place FCZ were fortunate to engage the Yugoslav Ilja Katic (ex Partizan Belgrade), plus a most promising forward from the 3rd Division club Glarus, Rene Botteron.

The main rivals of the two favourites should prove to be the 1971 champions Grasshoppers—who incidentally oppose Tottenham in the UEFA-Cup. The Zurich club report three new developments: A successfully operating combination of the two coaches Erich Vogel and Istvan Szabo; the new pay structure, changed from a proportion of 70/30 in basic salary/bonuses, to the unusual ratio of 40 per cent fixed salary, as against 60 per cent bonus!

Thirdly, the return to the ranks of the Swedish World Cup ace forward Ove Grahn. The "Hoppers" expect big things from the big Swede who last season, whilst with Lausanne, was the League's joint top scorer (with Hitzfeld) on 18 goals. On the other hand, Grasshoppers have lost some established stars like Citherlet in defence, Dimmeler in midfield and Schneeberger in attack.

The club are trying desperately to revive past glories. After all, they are the country's "double" record holders with 16 championship titles and 13 Cup victories! Runners-up last term, the Zurich outfit hope fervently to reach the top and regain some of the support they have lost in recent years to their great local foes the FC Zurich.

The attendance slump has also hit the champions Basel, who last season lost 31 per cent on gates and ended the financial year with a deficit of 170,000 francs (£21,000). Interesting to note, that although the small Swiss National League only requires 26 games, the FC Basel in fact played a total of 55 competitive games!

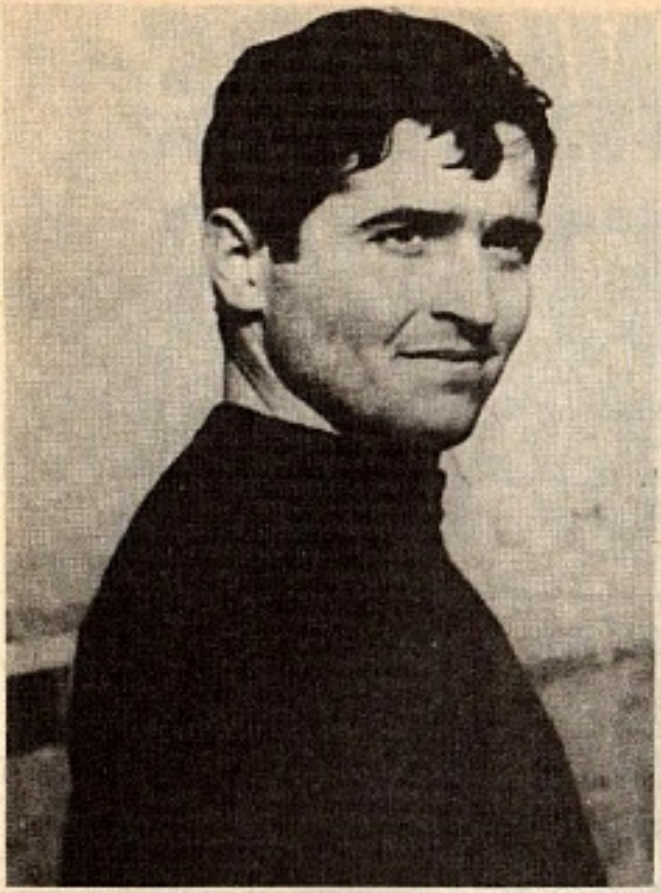
For the Swiss national team the coming weeks will be decisive with regards to qualification for the World Cup finals in West Germany. Switzerland may be small—geographically speaking—with limited resources, as far as football is concerned, but what few people realise is that this country has already taken part in six world final series—exactly as many times as England! And in this respect, only Brazil, Italy, Germany and Mexico can boast of a better record! Uruguay, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, France and England have equalled the Swiss number of appearances.

But now the odds are unhappily against the Helvetians going to Germany. Italy have already amassed points and goals, so that the Swiss, who have to visit the 1970 World Cup runners up in Rome, are facing a mountainous task. Lack of penetration up front is national manager's Rene Hussy's main problem. Since they scored twice against England, in Basle in 1971, when losing 2-3 in a European Championship tie, the Swiss forwards have not managed more than one goal in a match!

Hussy called up a squad of 38 who will have a week's training together, before the vital clashes with Italy (October 20), and Turkey (November 18), but only three days are being allocated before the home match v. Luxembourg (September 26).

In addition, two friendly internationals have been arranged, against Greece on November 21 and v. Belgium on May 1.

—ARTHUR ROTMIL



Giancarlo De Sisti.

Forget those Cup results

PHILIP EVANS

ONLY the bold or the foolish would attempt too hard to draw from the results of the Coppa Italia any firm evidence as to the likely positions in the league table at the end of the season. Year after year have teams from the Serie A suffered humiliation at the hands and feet of the lesser gifted — only to meld talent decisively at the right moment .

This year's cup games have proved no exception. On various occasions Inter, Cagliari, Fiorentina and Torino have disgraced themselves. And there are four teams who will be expected to challenge for position in the top third of the table. In any case, the whole style and content of the tournament seems misguided; played off at the beginning of the season, played in pools, used by coaches for experimentation—it can hardly be seen as anything of a valid guide to either the thrills of genuine cup competition or to genuine form.

Failure

One or two interesting bits of information have been thrown up, however; not least the failure of Fiorentina. The failure is, of course, relative; but the experiment of playing De Sisti deeper in midfield does not seem to have worked, and Antognoni may have to wait some short time before he is completely entrusted with the role of *regista* or midfield suggester.

Internazionale have scored goals on some occasions, not on others; and have yet to convince. Helenio Herrera will get little sympathy from some people — for we are firmly back in the land of *hubris* and *nemesis* that was mentioned a few months ago. I don't mind talented people; but they aren't always the right people to trumpet their own talents.

No matter; Magistrelli has lost weight and is moving less sluggishly than a year ago. But a lot will depend on how Scala, Mazzola and company are able to run in goals from deep positions. Helenio's style of football, maybe; but I remain sceptical.

Or is it mere prejudice in favour of Rocco and Milan. They have not yet resolved defensive problems and lack what they sought so hard in the transfer market — a genuine stopper centre-half. But Bianchi can play well wherever he is asked to perform and I hope it is merely a question of shuffling the pack.

Milan played a friendly against Roma — which gave Prati the satisfaction of scoring two goals against his old club and having a few moments with his ex-President. He may have the sort of season that will lead him to be lionised by the Roman public, but at the moment he has none to make his bullets for him. Perhaps when Cordova is back on form that can be put right; and Domenghini may score his usual half-dozen useful goals. I have a sneaky feeling that Roma may play this season.

Mucky mussels have served to make judgment on Napoli and Foggia hard to achieve. We shall have to see. Of the other newly-promoted teams Genoa have disappointed, with Rosato still to play; wheras Cesena have tumbled along nicely, despite being deprived of the services of Cera, who told a linesman what he thought of him with vivid vocabularly and plenty of lung power. Cera isn't one to do a lot of squealing, so perhaps the authorities were right in suggesting that the heat had got to him and baked his grey matter.

Juventus have decided — with alarming strength of mind — that Salvadore is a wee bit past it. There's one of my candidates for a new club when the transfer market opens again in November. But Altafini has been used, and not only when they have felt the need for a third striker; so it may be that the old man will play an important part yet again this season.

Pathetic

As for Cagliari — who can say. Their performances in cup games have been pathetic, that in friendlies little better. Young Butti seems to have been something of a find; but how many young players of talent have given up the ghost alongside older players lacking in energy and guts. I can't see a happy season for the Sardinian club; and it may possibly be disastrous.

For all that, I'll stay with my usual three — Cagliari, Fiorentina and Milan; or Riva, Antognoni and Rivera. And if Anastasi plays this season as he did the last, then Juventus may find themselves entering the private pantheon. As for betting? It's probably best to remember the old advice, and leave the selling plate races well alone. Which is all we have, in truth, to date.

QUESTIONNAIRE FETCHES RESPONSE

Hungarian Newsletter by LESLIE VERNON

AT last, the great inquest concerning the ills of Hungarian football has begun. The sports daily "Nepsport" kick-off with a four point questionnaire, and the answers came back thick and fast from the best-known names in the land. These were the questions, and some of the more pertinent answers.

1. Should we continue with the practice of keeping the national squad together, or let the players develop in their respective clubs?
2. If we do decide to begin to work with a new set of players, how can we motivate them to greater effort?
3. Our present troubles are deep-seated, and are the results of years of neglect. How can we avoid the same pitfalls in the future?
4. On what principles should a new squad be selected?

The most interesting answer to question number one came from Jozsef Gelei, who is now one of the coaches at Tatabanya, and was capped 15 times for Hungary. He said that there was no point in getting the national team together for the time being.

"Our very best players were selected against Sweden, and they failed. It would be unfair to pick lesser players simply because they are younger. If I would have to choose a team today, it would be similar to that of the usual 11, and they would have nothing to gain by playing warm-up matches against inferior sides. Our next task is the European Championship in 1976! Until then, might as well let the players train only with their clubs, and then the ones who excel themselves in the League should be called-up by Illovszky".

Received

Oszkar Vilezsal, the ex-coach of Ferencvaros, said that in the World Cup games, not only the national team, but Hungarian football itself received a thrashing.

"Our aim must now be to study the ingredients of the modern game. What the relationship is between the importance of ball-technique, stamina, physical strength, tactics, etc. We must catch up with the best in Europe in three years, but our rate of development should be faster than others, because they will improve further during that period.

Imre Kovacs, the coach who took Dozsa into the European Cup quarter-finals, and won the domestic championship with them, thought that Hungarian football lacked skilled leaders on the managerial level.

"Nowadays, people who know only a little about the game are put in charge of clubs. How can they control and advise the coaches?"

Finally, let me quote Dezso Bundzsak, the ex-international who managed several Greek clubs before he returned home and took over the First Division club Szeged.

"We coaches must encourage our players to learn the art of the typical Hungarian game. Our style has always been based on ball skills, wit, and an attacking attitude. I don't believe in the false dogma of power-football!"

Poor old Bundzsak must be kidding himself if he still speaks of the mythical invincibility of the classical style. By the time the great ball artists are ready to perform their wizardry, they are usually sitting on their back-sides while some rough wood-chopper rushes away from them with the ball.

I am not denigrating the need for imaginative football, but I am sick and tired of this nostalgic rubbish about the good old days, when a bit of ball jugglery could win matches. The sooner the Hungarians realise that being able to pass accurately under pressure and at speed is more difficult than, for instance, keeping the ball off the floor 482 times on a training pitch, the sooner they might be rated once again as a first-class soccer nation.

In the meantime, national team-manager Rudolf Illovszky seemingly ignored all the good (?) advice, and his squad for the friendly against Yugoslavia is not much different from the much-criticised old-guard. Out went Szucs, Fazekas, Bicskei and A. Dunai, and in came the Vasas keeper Meszaros, Laszlo Nagy at full-back, and link-man Karsai.

But all is not gloom on the home-front. Gate figures are going up once again, and the championship promises to be a tight race. There is an old saying in Budapest, that if Ferencvaros are doing well, the fans turn up in massive numbers. This season the popular Fradi have already won two derbys, beating both Vasas and Honved 2-1. They have forgiven the sins of Lajos Ku, and the slim forward is back in the team and playing exceptionally well. However, the green-and-whites lost their first match at Dorog (0-1), which was played barely a few days after they returned from a tiring and completely unnecessary African safari.

Honved opened the campaign in magnificent style, and not only won their first three League matches, but also beat the visiting CSKA Moscow 6-0! Kocsis was quite brilliant during this purple spell, and Kozma was scoring freely.

Although Vasas lost both Komjati and Puskas with serious injuries, they beat Ujpest Dozsa 4-2 at the Nepstadium. Even Bob Stokoe would have been impressed with the Buroti-team, but the unlucky Sunderland manager's flight was cancelled to Budapest.

It is obvious that Dozsa will be hard-pressed to hang on to the championship. The title-holders are off-form and their chances of success in the European Cup are rated very low. In the League, they scrambled home against Csepel 2-1, with two penalties in the last five minutes — both converted by Andras Toth, but they were outclassed by Vasas and there is a sluggish look about them. Perhaps it was a mistake to get rid of hard taskmasters Kovacs and please the players by appointing the easy-going Gyula Szucs as coach.

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Polish officials surround injured Jerzy Gorgon after he had been injured against Bulgaria.

International Review

Poland beat Bulgaria

by ERIC BATTY

RESULTS

Bulgaria	0	Poland	2
Holland	5	Iceland	0
Iceland	1	Holland	8
Finland	1	Sweden	2
Russia	0	West Germany	1
France	3	Greece	1

BULGARIA'S WORLD CUP chances took a nasty jolt when Poland outclassed them in Varna and team-manager Christo Mladenov will be having second thoughts about many of his automatic choices.

With Bulgaria's current idol Christo Bonev being shut out in midfield by the Polish trio of Kmiciewiecz, Kasperczak and Dejna, the Bulgarian attack never really got going. Dinko Dermendiev, recalled to the right wing and in line for a fourth (Bulgarian record) World Cup, threw away his chance with a very poor first half and was replaced with no effect.

Petko Petkov, who has been hammering goals for his club Beroe, did nothing to add to his reputation and only Bojil Kolev and goalkeeper Goranov saved their side from a heavier defeat.

Midfield player Jordan Stoykov, from Lokomotive Sofia, had a promising debut as a terrier-like tackler who never ceased to work, but he got little response from anyone meant to attack.

Grzegorz Lato on the right wing scored both Poland's goals, one in each half, and with their midfield trio switching fluently with the strikers, Lato, Domarski and Gadocha, they tore the Bulgarians apart. Dejna was the outstanding star in a very impressive Polish outfit that has now been boosted to a 20-man squad.

Even after their impressive libero, the giant Gorgon, was taken off injured the Poles' rearguard looked rock-like and they continued to play purposefully out of defence and fluently to the far end.

For Bulgaria, only Aladjov and Bonev are likely to remain from the 1970 World Cup squad (if they qualify) and CSKA captain and centre-back Dimitr Penev, a veteran of 75 internationls, seems certain to be recalled. He currently shares the all-time caps record with the outstanding star of the '50s and early '60s Ivan Kolev.

Dutch near

HOLLAND TOOK A step nearer the final stages of the World Cup with two unimpressive but nevertheless fruitful outings against Iceland. In Amsterdam the Dutch cantered to a 5-0 win that was widely criticised. Goals difference counts in the World Cup if teams are level on points and Cruyff and company should have taken more. Cruyff (two), Van Hanegem, Haan and Brokamp scored in the first match.

With Iceland's approval . . . for financial reasons . . . both their matches with Holland were played "away", clearly to the disadvantage of Holland's chief rival, Belgium.

In Deventer a few days later, the Dutchmen put themselves out a little more, though Cruyff's thoughts were clearly centred on Spain at the time. Ajax midfield hatchet man Neeskens came through from midfield to score the first goal early on and this was followed by two each from Cruyff and Brokamp, while the others were put away by Van der Kerkhof, Van Hanegem and Schneider (from a penalty). Left-winger Elmar Geirsson scored Iceland's consolation goal.

Finns lead

SWEDEN USUALLY FIELD a "B" side in their Nordisk Cup matches, but against Finland in Helsinki, team-manager Georg "Aby" Ericsson was under more pressure than usual to experiment. With key forwards Ralf Edstrom and Roland Sundberg abroad and a World Cup place going begging, the Swedes cannot afford to relax. They need to beat Malta by two goals (away from home) to qualify.

In Helsinki, it was a stronger side than usually takes on the Finns and Ericsson must have been more than a little disturbed when the home side took a first-half lead through Heikki Suhanen of HJK, the current Finnish League leaders.

During the second half the Swedes got back into the game, equalising after only four minutes through midfield general Conny Torstensson. From then on the Finns really made them struggle and it was only two minutes from the end that

● Continued overleaf

● Continued from previous page

International Review

Svensson scored the winner. What the Finns can do could certainly be matched by Malta on their own treacherous pitch, though the Swedes were probably not in the mood they will be on the big day in November.

Vital win

WEST GERMANY VISITED Moscow for a match that was vital for both sides even though the fixture was only a friendly. The Russians are having serious difficulties scoring goals and the Germans who looked a super-team not long ago, have had a series of reverses this year.

Without Gunter Netzer it appears that of Gerd Muller's bombing capacity is taken away. Always tightly marked, he needs the ball played into space rather than at him and no one else seems to know how to find him. Helmut Schon put almost his entire squad on the pitch at one time or another and the Russians desperately switched their players, looking for the right blend.

Jupp Heynckes, who has taken over Muller's top scorer role in the Bundesliga this season, was switched to the left wing to make room on the right for the in-form Jurgen Grabowski. Heynckes, sadly out of touch, could have had four or five goals, but slipped, fell or was fouled at vital moments. Replaced by Erwin Kremers for the second half there seemed little improvement despite a superb first appearance by Dietmar Danner, the young and skilful midfield player from Borussia Monchengladbach. Danner had his left foot in most of the good moves the Germans set up, and placed several long through passes to perfection but nothing came from them.

Muller, clearly, is going through a poor patch, while Franz Beckenbauer, perhaps under orders, played more like the conventional solid libero than the real Beckenbauer. Schwarzenbeck made more sorties upfield than he did, though never with the same effect. One of Beckenbauer's rare excursions into attack almost brought a goal when he started off a move from the back, helped carry it on through midfield and, still running, took a short push back on the edge of the penalty area to hit a dipping shot that was well saved by Pilgui, standing in for Rudakov in the Russian goal.

Wolfgang, the Borussia Monchengladbach 'keeper, also reappeared and put up a creditable show in goal. He had few shots to save but showed his courage once by going down at the feet of two men after Blokhin had created a dangerous situation in his goalmouth.

Against the high cross, Kleff looked happier than most West German 'keepers of the last decade and looks as if he may permanently replace the unreliable but very popular Sepp Maier.

The speed of Kremers troubled the Russians more than a little and it was from him that the only goal came. After beating two men for pace and recovering from a foul, Kremers crossed hard and high to the far post. Pilgui made no move and Kaplitschni jumped but failed to make contact and there was the head of Muller to head home from three yards.

Poland's Kasperczak heads clear from Bulgaria's Christo Bonev.

Worthy winners

FRANCE RECENTLY APPOINTED a new selector-coach, Stefan Kovacs, who, officially at least, will work under the discredited and highly unpopular Georges Boulogne. For his first match, however, the former Ajax boss made it clear that he was picking the team. "We must think," he said, "of 1978."

French fans, perhaps believing that Kovacs was a magician, were disappointed though they were worthy winners by 3-1. Serge Chiesa was the outstanding player afield and he capped a fine display by scoring the third goal.

Earlier, Jouve, playing alongside Chiesa in midfield, had opened the scoring and Berdoll put France two up. Then Adinlou pegged them back with a goal at 2-1 which appeared to unsettle some of the younger French players.

Significantly, though half the side were more skilful individuals than have been capped in the last few years by Boulogne, the burly Adams is still there, underlining that even for the men thought of as purists there is still a streak of realism.

The Greeks started well and, prompted by the still very useful Domazos, they threatened from time to time but for long periods they went out of the game.

Already eliminated from the World Cup the Greeks had little to play for, though they, too, had a new boss. It is too early to judge Kovacs, but he cannot do more than give opportunities to skilful, intelligent players and this appears to be his intent. In the final analysis, however, the poverty of French football will probably prevent him steering France to the final stages of the 1978 World Cup (his avowed target), even if the Rumanian FA allow him to stay until then.

LEAGUE TABLES

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sturm Graz	6	6	0	0	9	1	12
Austria/WAC	6	3	2	1	12	7	8
VOeEST Linz	6	3	2	1	8	6	8
Swarovski Innsbruck	5	2	2	1	10	7	6
Vorwaerts Vorarlberg	5	2	2	1	4	7	6
Wiener Sportklub	6	2	2	2	9	9	6
Linz ASK	6	2	2	2	6	6	6
VSV Radenthein	6	0	6	0	2	2	6
Grazer AK	6	2	2	2	6	6	6
Rapid Vienna	5	1	3	1	8	8	5
Simmering	6	1	3	2	10	8	5
Austria Salzburg	6	1	3	2	6	5	5
Austria Klagenfurt	6	1	3	2	9	9	5
Admira/Wacker	6	2	1	3	11	14	5
Alpine Donawitz	5	1	2	2	11	9	4
Eisenstadt	5	1	0	4	4	10	2
Vienna	5	0	1	4	1	12	1

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atletico Madrid	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Granada	2	1	1	0	3	1	3
Castellon	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Zaragoza	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Espanol	2	1	0	1	3	1	2
Malaga	2	1	0	1	3	2	2
Real Madrid	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Oviedo	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
Celta Vigo	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
Atletico Bilbao	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
Las Palmas	2	1	0	1	1	1	2
Valencia	2	1	0	1	3	4	2
Elche	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Santander	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Real Sociedad	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Murcia	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Barcelona	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Dijon	2	0	0	2	2	6	0

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	4	4	0	0	11	2	8
Ajax	4	2	2	0	12	3	6
Utrecht	4	3	0	1	8	8	6
PSV Eindhoven	4	2	1	1	11	5	5
Go Ahead	4	2	1	1	6	4	5
Sparta Rotterdam	4	1	3	0	3	2	5
Amsterdam	4	2	1	1	7	9	5
Twente Enschede	4	1	2	1	6	6	4
Groningen	4	1	2	1	7	8	4
Roda JC Kerkrode	4	0	3	1	4	5	3
Den Haag	4	1	1	2	3	4	3
NEC Nijmegen	4	1	1	2	3	4	3
AZ 67	4	0	3	1	2	3	3
Haarlem	4	1	1	2	6	8	3
De Graafschap	4	0	3	1	4	6	3
MVV Maastricht	4	1	1	2	6	9	3
Telstar	4	0	2	2	7	10	2
NAC Breda	4	0	1	3	4	14	1

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Borussia Moenchengladbach	6	5	1	0	23	8	11
Bayern Munich	6	4	2	0	18	8	10
Eintracht Frankfurt	6	4	2	0	14	6	10
Kickers Offenbach	6	3	2	1	12	6	8
VfB Stuttgart	6	3	1	2	14	8	7
Fortuna Dusseldorf	6	3	1	2	13	11	7
Hertha Berlin	6	1	5	0	11	9	7
VfL Bochum	6	2	3	1	8	8	7
MSV Duisburg	6	2	1	3	9	9	5
Hannover 96	6	2	1	3	13	14	5
Wuppertaler	6	2	1	3	7	9	5
Kaiserslautern	6	2	1	3	13	16	5
Fortuna Cologne	6	1	3	2	7	10	5
Werder Bremen	6	0	4	2	6	11	4
Cologne	6	1	2	3	8	14	4
Hamburger SV	6	1	1	4	7	13	3
Schalke 04	6	1	1	4	10	22	3
Rot-Weiss Essen	6	0	2	4	5	16	2

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ruch Chorzow	3	3	0	0	12	1	6
Wisla Krakow	3	3	0	0	6	1	6
Odra Opole	3	1	2	0	3	2	4
Stal Mielec	2	1	1	0	2	0	3
Legia Warsaw	3	1	1	1	6	3	3
Szombierki	3	1	1	1	5	5	3
Gwardia	3	1	1	1	4	4	3
Lech	3	0	3	0	1	1	3
Gornik Zabrze	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
ROW Rybnik	3	1	1	1	2	4	3
Zaglebie Walbrzych	2	1	0	1	1	2	2
Slask	3	1	0	2	1	3	2
LKS Lodz	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Pogon	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Polonia	3	0	1	2	3	8	1
Zaglebie Sosnowiec	3	0	0	3	0	8	0

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RWD Molenbeek	2	1	1	0	4	0	3
Lierse	2	1	1	0	5	2	3
Standard Liege	2	1	1	0	4	2	3
FC Malines	2	1	1	0	3	1	3
FC Liege	2	1	1	0	4	3	3
Anderlecht	2	1	0	1	4	4	2
CS Bruges	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
Berchem	2	1	0	1	2	5	2
Beerschot	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Beveren	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Diest	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
St Trond	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
FC Bruges	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Waregem	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Antwerp	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Beringen	2	0	1	1	2	5	1

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski Spartak	5	5	0	0	9	3	10
CSKA Sofia	5	3	1	1	6	2	7
Lokomotiv Plovdiv	5	3	1	1	9	6	7
Pirin Blagoevgrad	5	3	1	1	6	4	7
Lokomotiv Sofia	5	2	2	1	9	4	6
Slavia Sofia	5	3	0	2	7	4	6
Beroe	5	2	1	2	19	10	5
Trakia	5	2	1	2	7	6	5
Etar Tirnovo	5	1	2	2	4	4	4
Juntra Gabrovo	5	2	0	3	5	7	4
ESK Spartak Varna	5	1	2	2	5	8	4
Minjor Pernik	5	1	2	2	5	12	4
Tschernomore	5	1	1	3	7	10	3
Akademik Sofia	5	0	3	2	2	5	3
Botev Vratza	5	1	1	3	6	16	3
Spartak Pleven	5	1	0	4	5	10	2

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zurich	5	3	2	0	11	6	8
Basel	4	3	0	1	7	4	6
Neuchatel Xamax	4	2	1	1	9	4	5
St'Gallen	4	2	1	1	7	5	5
Grasshoppers	4	2	1	1	9	7	5
Lausanne	4	2	1	1	10	8	5
Lugano	4	1	2	1	5	4	4
Winterthur	4	2	0	2	5	4	4
Servette	4	2	0	2	8	10	4
Young Boys	4	1	1	2	9	10	3
Chiasso	4	1	1	2	4	6	3
Sion	4	1	1	2	5	8	3
Chenois	4	0	2	2	2	8	2
Chaux-de-Fonds	5	0	1	4	6	13	1

EAST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sachsenring	5	5	0	0	12	2	10
Carl Zeiss Jena	5	4	0	1	10	4	8
Magdeburg	5	3	1	1	8	5	7
Dynamo Dresden	5	1	4	0	14	11	6
Lokomotiv Leipzig	5	2	2	1	10	7	6
Karl-Marx-Stadt	5	2	2	1	9	6	6
Vorwaerts Frankfurt	5	2	2	1	6	4	6
Energie Cottbus	5	0	4	1	6	8	4
Dynamo Berlin	5	2	0	3	6	9	4
Wismut Aue	5	1	1	3	8	10	3
Hansa Rostock	5	1	1	3	7	10	3
Stahl Riesa	5	0	3	2	6	11	3
Chemie Leipzig	5	0	2	3	6	12	2
Rot-Weiss Erfurt	5	0	2	3	2	11	2

Tottenham's Martin Chivers holding off a challenge from West Ham's Frank Lampard.

Classified Advertisements

WANTED URGENT! "Racing & Football Outlook" football annuals 1959-60 and all previous seasons. Copes Results and copy coupons for 1967-8. Any condition, good price. Replies to The Ad. Manager, World Soccer, 79 Temple Chambers, Webster's Publications, London EC4.

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Results...dates...tables...re

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AFRICA

First preliminary round

Group 1

19.11.72 Morocco 0, Senegal 0
3.12.72 Senegal 1, Morocco 2

Group 2

2. 3.72 Algeria 1, Guinea 0
12. 3.72 Guinea 5, Algeria 1

Second Preliminary Round

Guinea 1, Morocco 1
Morocco 2, Guinea 0

Group 3

8.12.72 AR Egypt 2, Tunisia 1
17.12.72 Tunisia 2, AR Egypt 0

Group 4

15.10.72 Sierra Leone 0, Ivory Coast 1
29.10.72 Ivory Coast 2, Sierra Leone 0

Second Preliminary Round

Tunisia 1, Ivory Coast 1
Ivory Coast 2, Tunisia 1

Group 5

16. 7.72 Kenya 2, Sudan 0
23. 7.72 Sudan 1, Kenya 0

Group 6

Mauritius v. Madagascar
Madagascar v. Mauritius
Madagascar withdrew

Second Preliminary Round

10.12.72 Mauritius 1, Kenya 3
17.12.72 Kenya 2, Mauritius 2

Group 7

25.11.72 Ethiopia 0, Tanzania 0
3.12.72 Tanzania 1, Ethiopia 1
Play-off Ethiopia 3, Tanzania 0

Group 8

30. 4.72 Lesotho 0, Zambia 0
4. 6.72 Zambia 6, Lesotho 1

Second Preliminary Round

1. 4.73 Ethiopia 0, Zambia 0
15. 4.73 Zambia 4, Ethiopia 2

Group 9

5. 8.72 Nigeria 2, Congo Brazza. 1
15. 8.72 Congo Brazza. 1, Nigeria 1

Group 10

18. 6.72 Dahomey 0, Ghana 5
2. 7.72 Ghana 5, Dahomey 1

Second Preliminary Round

Nigeria 2, Ghana 3
Ghana 1, Nigeria 1

Group 11

6. 6.72 Togo 0, Zaire 0
20. 6.72 Zaire 4, Togo 0

Group 12

Cameroons v. Gabon
Gabon v. Cameroons
Gabon withdrew

Second Preliminary Round

4. 2.73 Cameroon 0, Zaire 1
25. 2.73 Zaire 0, Cameroon 1
27. 2.73 Zaire 2, Cameroon 0

Third Round

20. 5.73 Ivory Coast 1, Morocco 1
3. 6.73 Morocco 4, Ivory Coast 1
12. 8.73 Zambia 2, Kenya 0
19. 8.73 Kenya 2, Zambia 2
5. 8.73 Ghana 1, Zaire 0
19. 8.73 Zaire 4, Ghana 1

ASIA

Sub-Group B1

4. 3.73 Australia 1, New Zealand 1
11. 3.73 Australia 3, Iraq 1
Indonesia 1, New Zealand 1
13. 3.73 Iraq 2, New Zealand 0
Australia 2, Indonesia 1
16. 3.73 Iraq 1, Indonesia 1
Australia 3, New Zealand 3
18. 3.73 Indonesia 1, New Zealand 0
Australia 0, Iraq 0
21. 3.73 Iraq 3, Indonesia 2
24. 3.73 Iraq 4, New Zealand 0
Australia 6, Indonesia 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	6	3	3	0	15	6	9
Iraq	6	3	2	1	11	6	8
Indonesia	6	1	2	3	6	13	4
New Zealand	6	0	3	3	5	12	3

Aisia Sub-Group B2

4. 5.73 North Korea 0, Iran 0
4. 5.73 Syria 2, Kuwait 1
6. 5.73 Iran 2, Kuwait 1
6. 5.73 North Korea 1, Syria 1
8. 5.73 Iran 1, Syria 0
8. 5.73 Kuwait 0, North Korea 0
11. 5.73 North Korea 1, Iran 2
11. 5.73 Syria 2, Kuwait 0
13. 5.73 Iran 2, Kuwait 0
13. 5.73 North Korea 3, Syria 0
15. 5.73 Syria 1, Iran 0
15. 5.73 Kuwait 2, North Korea 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	6	4	1	1	7	3	8
Syria	6	3	1	2	6	6	7
North Korea	6	1	3	2	5	5	5
Kuwait	6	1	1	4	4	8	3

18. 8.73 Australia 3, Iran 0
24. 8.73 Iran 2, Australia 0

Asia Sub Group A

Group A

Hong Kong (0) 1, South Vietnam (0) 0
Japan (2) 4, South Vietnam (0) 0
Japan (0) 0, Hong Kong (0) 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hong Kong	2	2	0	0	2	0	4
Japan	2	1	0	1	4	1	2
South Vietnam	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Group B

South Korea (0) 4, Thailand (0) 0
Israel (1) 6, Thailand (0) 0
Malaysia (0) 2, Thialand (0) 0
South Korea (0) 0, Israel (0) 0
South Korea (0) 0, Malaysia (0) 0
Israel (2) 3, Malaysia (0) 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Israel	3	2	1	0	9	0	5
South Korea	3	1	2	0	4	0	4
Malaysia	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
Thailand	3	0	0	3	0	12	0

Semi finals

South Korea (1) 3, Hong Kong (1) 1
Israel (0) 1, Japan (0) 0*

Final

South Korea (0) 1, Israel (0) 0*
* *after extra time*

CONCACAF

First preliminary round

Group 1

20. 8.72 Canada 3, USA 2
24. 8.72 Canada 0, Mexico 1
29. 8.72 USA 2, Canada 2
3.10.72 Mexico 3, USA 1
6.10.72 Mexico 2, Canada 1
10.10.72 USA 1, Mexico 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	4	4	0	0	8	3	8
Canada	4	1	1	2	6	7	3
USA	4	0	1	3	6	10	1

Group 2

3.12.72 Guatemala 1, El Salvador 0
10.12.72 El Salvador 0, Guatemala 1

Group 3

3.12.72 Honduras 2, Costa Rica 1
10.12.72 Costa Rica 3, Honduras 3

Group 4

11. 6.72 Jamaica v. Neth. Antilles
Neth. Antilles v. Jamaica
Jamaica withdrew

Group 5

15. 4.72 Haiti 7, Puerto Rico 0
26. 9.72 Puerto 0, Haiti 5

Group 6

26.11.72 Surinam 1, Trinidad 2
30.11.72 Trinidad 1, Surinam 1
10.12.72 Surinam 3, Antigua 1
3.12.72 Antigua 0, Surinam 6
10.11.72 Trinidad 11, Antigua 1
19.11.72 Antigua 1, Trinidad 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trinidad	4	3	1	0	16	4	[illegible]
Surinam	4	2	1	1	11	4	5
Antigua	4	0	0	4	3	22	0

Final Tournament

29.11.73 Honduras v. Trinidad
30.11.73 Mexico v. Guatemala
1.12.73 Haiti v. Neth. Antilles
3.12.73 Honduras v. Mexico
5.12.73 Neth. Antilles v. Guatemala
7.12.73 Honduras v. Haiti
8.12.73 Neth. Antilles v. Mexico
10.12.73 Guatemala v. Trinidad
12.12.73 Honduras v. Neth. Antilles
13.12.73 Guatemala v. Haiti
14.12.73 Trinidad v. Mexico
15.12.73 Honduras v. Guatemala
17.12.73 Trinidad v. Neth. Antilles
18.12.73 Mexico v. Haiti

EUROPE

Group 1

14.11.71 Malta 0, Hungary 2
30. 4.72 Austria 4, Malta 0
6. 5.72 Hungary 3, Malta 0
25. 5.72 Sweden 0, Hungary 0
10. 6.72 Austria 2, Sweden 0
15.10.72 Sweden 7, Malta 0
15.10.72 Austria 2, Hungary 2
25.11.72 Malta 0 v. Austria 2
29. 4.73 Hungary 2, Austria 2
24. 5.73 Sweden 3, Austria 2

gults...dates...tables...results

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13. 6.73 Hungary 3 v. Sweden 3
11.11.73 Malta v. Sweden

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	6	3	2	1	14	7	8
Hungary	6	2	4	0	12	7	8
Sweden	5	2	2	1	13	7	6
Malta	5	0	0	5	0	18	0

Group 2

8.10.72 Luxembourg 0, Italy 4
21.10.72 Switzerland 0, Italy 0
22.10.72 Luxembourg 2, Turkey 0
10.12.72 Turkey 3, Luxembourg 0
13. 1.73 Italy 0, v. Turkey 0
25. 2.73 Turkey 0, v. Italy 1
31. 3.73 Italy 5, Luxembourg 0
8. 4.73 Luxembourg 0, Switzerland 1
9. 5.73 Switzerland 0, Turkey 0
26. 9.73 Switzerland v. Luxembourg
20.10.73 Italy v. Switzerland
18.11.73 Turkey v. Switzerland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	5	3	2	0	10	0	8
Switzerland	3	1	2	0	1	0	4
Turkey	5	1	2	2	3	3	4
Luxembourg	5	1	0	4	2	13	2

Group 3

18. 5.72 Belgium 4, Iceland 0
22. 5.72 Iceland 0, Belgium 4 (In Belgium)
2. 8.72 Norway 4, Iceland 1
4.10.72 Norway 0, Belgium 2
1.11.72 Netherlands 9, Norway 0
19.11.72 Belgium 0 v. Netherlands 0
2. 8.73 Iceland 0, Norway 4
22. 8.73 Netherlands 5, Iceland 0
29. 8.73 Iceland 1, Netherlands 8 (In Netherlands)
12. 9.73 Norway v. Netherlands
31.10.73 Belgium v. Norway
18.11.73 Netherlands v. Belgium

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	4	3	1	0	10	0	7
Netherlands	4	3	1	0	22	1	7
Norway	4	2	0	2	8	12	4
Iceland	6	0	0	6	2	29	0

Group 4

21. 6.72 Finland 1, Albania 0
20. 9.72 Finland 1, Rumania 1
7.10.72 East Germany 5, Finland 0
29.10.72 Rumania 2, Albania 0
8. 4.73 East Germany 2, Albania 0
6. 5.73 Albania 1, Rumania 4
27. 5.73 Rumania 1, East Germany 0
6. 6.73 Finland 1, East Germany 5
26. 9.73 East Germany v. Rumania
10.10.73 Albania v. Finland
14.10.73 Rumania v. Finland
3.11.73 Albania v. East Germany

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rumania	4	3	1	0	8	2	7
East Germany	4	3	0	1	11	2	6
Finland	4	1	1	2	3	11	3
Albania	4	0	0	4	1	9	0

Group 5

15.11.72 Wales 0 v. England 1
24. 1.73 England 1 v. Wales 1
28. 3.73 Wales 2, Poland 0
6. 6.73 Poland 2, England 0
26. 9.73 Poland v. Wales
17.10.73 England v. Poland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	3	1	1	1	3	2	3
England	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
Poland	2	1	0	1	2	2	2

Group 6

29. 3.72 Portugal 4, Cyprus 0
10. 5.72 Cyprus 0, Portugal 1
18.10.72 Bulgaria 3, Northern Ireland 0
19.11.72 Cyprus 0 v. Bulgaria 4
14. 2.73 Cyprus 1, v. Northern Ireland 0
28. 3.73 Northern Ireland 1, Portugal 1
2. 5.73 Bulgaria 2, Portugal 1
9. 5.73 Northern Ireland 3, Cyprus 0
26. 9.73 Northern Ireland v. Bulgaria
13.10.73 Portugal v. Bulgaria
14.11.73 Portugal v. Northern Ireland
18.11.73 Bulgaria v. Cyprus

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	3	3	0	0	9	1	6
Portugal	4	2	1	1	7	3	5
N. Ireland	4	1	1	2	4	5	3
Cyprus	5	1	0	4	1	12	2

Group 7

19.10.72 Spain 2, Yugoslavia 2
18.11.72 Yugoslavia 1 v. Greece 0
17. 1.73 Greece 2, Spain 3
21. 2.73 Spain 3, Greece 1
21.10.73 Yugoslavia v. Spain
19.12.73 Greece v. Yugoslavia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	2	1	0	8	5	5
Yugoslavia	3	1	1	0	3	2	3
Greece	3	0	0	3	3	7	0

Group 8

18.10.72 Denmark 1, Scotland 4
15.11.72 Scotland 2, Denmark 0
2. 5.73 Denmark 1, Czechoslovakia 1
6. 6.73 Czechoslovakia 6, Denmark 0
26. 9.73 Scotland v. Czechoslovakia
17.10.73 Czechoslovakia v. Scotland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Czechoslovakia	2	1	1	0	7	1	3
Denmark	4	0	1	3	2	13	1

Group 9

13.10.72 France 1, USSR 0
18.10.72 Eire 1, USSR 2
15.11.72 Eire 2 v. France 1
13. 5.73 USSR 1 Eire 0
19. 5.73 France 1, Eire 1
26. 5.73 USSR 2, France 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
USSR	4	3	0	1	5	2	6
Eire	4	1	1	2	4	5	3
France	4	1	1	2	3	5	3

SOUTH AMERICA

Group 1

21. 6.73 Colombia 1, Ecuador 1
24. 6.73 Colombia 0, Uruguay 0
28. 6.73 Ecuador 1, Columbia 1
1. 7.73 Ecuador 1, Uruguay 2
5. 7.73 Uruguay 0, Colombia 1
8. 7.73 Uruguay 4, Ecuador 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	4	2	1	1	6	2	5
Colombia	4	1	3	0	3	2	5
Ecuador	4	0	2	2	3	8	2

Group 2

2. 9.73 Bolivia v. Paraguay
9. 9.73 Argentina v. Bolivia
16. 9.73 Paraguay v. Argentina
23. 9.73 Bolivia v. Argentina
30. 9.73 Paraguay v. Bolivia
7.10.73 Argentina v. Paraguay

Group 3

29. 4.73 Peru 2, Chile 0
3. 5.73 Chile 2, Peru 0
15. 8.73 Chile 2, Peru 1 (Venezuela withdrew)

Kolev of Bulgaria in a World Cup match against Portugal.

Classified results

Holland (4) 5 (Van Hanegem, Cruyff 2, Haan, Brokamp)
Iceland (0) 0

Holland: Van Beveren; Suurbier, Hulshoff, Neeskens, Krol (Schneider), Haan, Brokamp (Muhren G.), Van Hanegem, Rep, Cruyff, Keizer.
Iceland: Olafsson; Sigurvinsson, Gunnarsson (A), Kjartansson, Gunnarsson (E) (Hallgrimsson), Geirsson (Edvaldsson, Liefsson, Julusson, Gunnarsson (H), Geirsson (E).

Holland (4) 8 (Brokamp 2, Cruyff 2, Neeskens, Van der Kerkhof, Schneider pen, Van Hanegem)
Iceland (1) 1 (Geirsson E.)

Holland: Schrijvers; Suurbier, Schneider, Hulshoff, Krol, Haan, Neeskens, Van Hanegem, Van der Kerkhof, Cruyff, Brokamp.
Iceland: Olafsson; Sigurvinsson, Gunnarsson (A), Kjartansson, Gunnarsson (E), Geirsson (M), Edvaldsson, Liefsson, Julusson, Hallgrimsson, Geirsson (E).

Bolivia (1) 1 (Morales)
Paraguay (1) 2 (Escobar, Insfran)

Bolivia: Jimenez; Olivera, Perez, Cabrera-Bucut, Antelo, Vargas, Costa (Rocabado), Fernandez, Mezza, Cabrera-Rivera, Morales.
Paraguay: Baez; Cobo, Milina, Sosa, Ortiz, Osoria, Jara, Vera, Escobar, Diarte (Espinoza), Jiminez (Insfran).

USSR (0) 0
West Germany (0) 1 (Muller)

USSR: Pilgui; Dzodzuashvili, Kaplichny, Fomenko, Lovchev, Konkov (Vasine), Muntian, Kolotov (Andriasian), Evryzhikhin, Onischenko, Blekin.
West Germany: Kleff; Hottges, Schwarzenbeck, Beckenbauer, Breitner, Danner, Koppel (Hoeness), Flohe, Grabowski (Wunder), Muller, Heynckes (E. Kremers).

France (1) 3 (Jouve, Berdoll, Chiesa)
Greece (0) 1 (Aidiniou)

France: Baratelli; Tresor, Adams, Osman, Repellini, Jouve, Berta, Molitor, Chiesa, Lacombe (Berdoll), Sarramagna (Ravier).
Greece: Kelesidis; Synethopoulos, Dimitriou, Kapsis, Angelis, Sarafis (Terjenidis), Elefterakis, Domazos, Koudas, Antoniadis, Aidiniou (Nikolau).

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atvidaberg	18	14	4	0	41	16	32
Oester Vaxjo	18	9	6	3	35	16	24
Landskrona	18	8	5	5	22	18	21
Malmo FF	18	8	4	6	32	22	20
Djurgaarden	18	8	4	6	30	26	20
GAIS Gothenburg	17	8	3	6	19	16	19
Hammarby	17	6	4	7	19	23	16
AIK Stockholm	18	6	4	8	23	24	16
Sirius	18	6	4	8	15	29	16
Elfsborg Boras	18	5	5	8	24	26	15
Orebro	18	4	7	7	21	28	15
IFK Norrkoping	18	2	10	6	26	31	14
Saab	18	4	4	10	19	31	12
Orgryte	18	3	4	11	22	42	10

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Bonus Pts	Pts
Lyon	6	4	1	1	14	8	2	11
St Etienne	6	4	1	1	12	7	2	11
Nimes	6	3	2	1	12	9	2	10
Lens	6	4	0	2	11	9	2	10
Sochaux	6	3	2	1	9	4	1	9
Nantes	6	3	2	1	12	9	1	9
Reims	6	2	2	2	15	14	3	9
Nice	6	3	0	3	10	7	2	8
Angers	6	2	2	2	11	8	2	8
Bordeaux	6	2	2	2	11	9	2	8
Strasbourg	6	2	2	2	10	12	2	8
Bastia	6	3	1	2	5	4	0	7
Troyes	6	2	1	3	11	11	2	7
Rennes	6	2	2	2	7	7	0	6
Marseille	6	1	2	3	9	12	1	5
Sedan	6	1	3	2	7	10	0	5
Metz	6	1	2	3	7	10	0	4
Nancy	6	1	2	3	6	10	0	4
Monaco	6	0	2	4	11	16	2	4
Paris	6	1	1	4	7	21	1	4

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Proleter	4	2	2	0	7	2	6
Celik	4	2	2	0	5	1	6
OFK Belgrade	4	2	2	0	6	4	6
Dinamo Zagreb	4	2	2	0	5	3	6
Zeljeznicar	4	2	1	1	8	4	5
Red Star Belgrade	4	2	1	1	5	3	5
Sloboda	4	2	0	2	5	5	4
Olimpija	4	1	2	1	5	6	4
Bor	4	2	0	2	5	8	4
Sarajevo	3	1	1	1	2	2	3
Radnicki Nis	3	1	1	1	5	7	3
Borac	4	0	3	1	4	5	3
Partizan	4	0	3	1	1	2	3
Vardar	3	1	0	2	5	3	2
Hajduk Split	3	1	0	2	3	4	2
Vojvodina	4	1	0	3	2	5	2
Velez	4	0	2	2	2	6	2
NK Zagreb	4	0	2	2	2	7	2

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dukla Prague	5	4	1	0	10	4	9
Slovan Bratislava	5	4	0	1	16	9	8
Sparta Prague	5	3	0	2	9	5	6
Bohemians	5	2	2	1	10	7	6
Union Teplice	5	2	1	2	7	5	5
Lokomotiv Kosice	5	2	1	2	9	9	5
Tatran Presov	5	2	1	2	6	7	5
Spartak Trnava	5	2	1	2	3	4	5
Slavia Prague	5	2	1	2	4	7	5
VSS Kosice	5	2	0	3	9	8	4
Skoda Plzen	5	1	2	2	4	6	4
Zbrojovka Brno	5	2	0	3	5	8	4
ZVL Zilina	5	2	0	3	5	9	4
Banik Ostrava	5	2	0	3	6	12	4
AC Nitra	5	1	1	3	6	8	3
Inter Bratislava	5	1	1	3	7	10	3

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Honved	4	3	0	1	12	3	6
Ferencvaros	4	3	0	1	8	4	6
Salgotarjan	4	2	2	0	5	2	6
Ujpest Dozsa	4	3	0	1	12	10	6
MTK Budapest	4	2	1	1	6	4	5
Pecs	4	2	1	1	6	6	5
Raba ETO	4	2	1	1	6	6	5
Vasas Budapest	4	1	2	1	6	5	4
Tatabanya	4	1	2	1	6	6	4
Zalaegerszeg	4	1	2	1	3	6	4
Dorog	4	1	1	2	6	8	3
Haladas	4	0	2	2	3	5	2
Csepel	4	1	0	3	8	11	2
Szeged	4	1	0	3	6	9	2
Egyetertes	4	0	2	2	4	7	2
Videoton	4	0	2	2	3	8	2

RUMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uni Craiova	6	5	1	0	10	2	11
Constanta	6	4	1	1	7	4	9
CSM Resita	6	2	3	1	15	9	7
Dinamo Bucharest	6	3	1	2	12	10	7
Politehnica Iassy	5	3	0	2	4	4	6
Sportul Studentesc	6	3	0	3	11	6	6
Arges	6	2	2	2	9	9	6
Petrolul	6	3	0	3	10	11	6
Politehnica Timisoara	6	3	0	3	5	6	6
AS Armata	6	3	0	3	12	16	6
Steaua	5	2	1	2	9	7	5
Uni Cluj	6	2	1	3	5	5	5
Rapid	6	2	1	3	8	9	5
Steagul Rosu	6	2	1	3	6	7	5
CFR Cluj	6	2	1	3	10	12	5
SC Bacau	6	2	0	4	7	12	4
UT Arad	6	2	0	4	4	11	4
Jiul	6	1	1	4	6	10	3

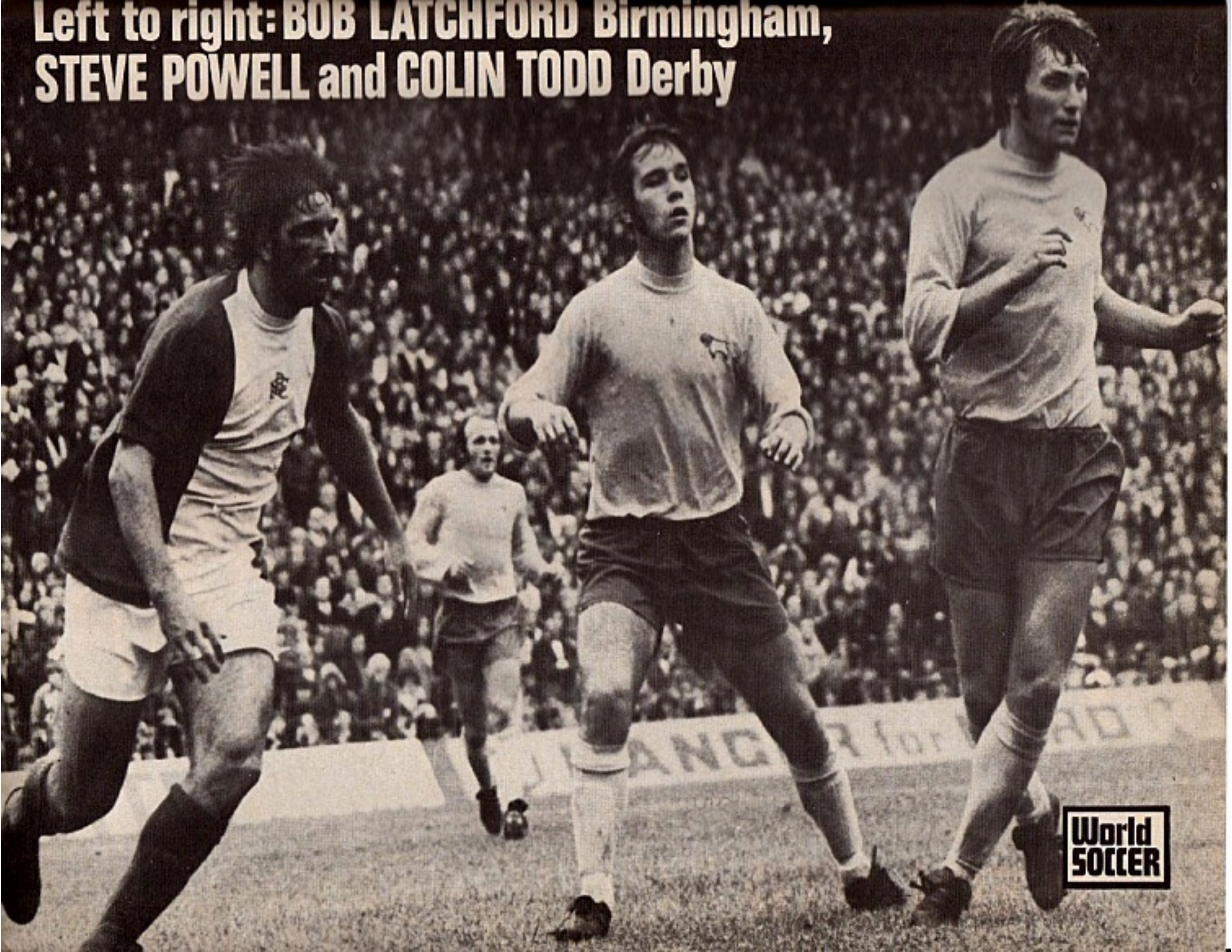
DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
KB Copenhagen	14	7	3	4	27	27	17
Hvidovre	15	6	5	4	31	24	17
Vejle	15	8	1	6	26	19	17
Aalborg	15	6	5	4	23	16	17
Akademisk	15	6	3	6	26	26	15
Frem	15	5	5	5	28	29	15
Naestved	15	6	3	6	26	28	15
Randers Freja	15	5	4	6	23	23	14
B 1903 Copenhagen	15	4	5	6	15	17	13
Aarhus	15	4	5	6	18	23	13
B 1901 Nykoping	15	6	1	8	27	37	13
Koge	14	5	2	7	18	19	12

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Viking Stavanger	17	11	4	2	26	9	26
Rosenborg	17	8	6	3	26	12	22
Hamarkam	17	8	5	4	22	16	21
Start	17	8	4	5	20	16	20
Mjondalen	17	7	4	6	17	20	18
Frigg	17	5	6	6	18	20	16
Raufoss	17	6	4	7	16	20	16
Stromsgodset	17	6	3	8	21	21	15
Brann Bergen	17	6	3	8	18	22	15
Skeid Oslo	16	4	6	6	12	16	14
Lyn	16	3	4	9	13	22	10
Fredrikstad	17	2	5	10	14	29	9

Leicester's Frank Worthington shields the ball from Arsenal's Alan Ball with Jeff Blockley watching.


Left to right: BOB LATCHFORD Birmingham,
STEVE POWELL and COLIN TODD Derby
World SOCCER

LEEDS UTD

Back row, left to right: Peter Lorimer, Eddie Gray, Mick Bates, Allan Clarke, Norman Hunter, Gordon McQueen, Roy Ellam, Paul Reaney, Francis Gray.
Front row: Terry Yorath, Gary Sprake, Trevor Cherry, Joe Jordan, Johnny Giles, David Harvey, Paul Madeley, Billy Bremner, Mick Jones.